Shojo Beat Manga

Tail of the Moon™

Story & Art by

Rinko Ueda

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Tail of the Moon

Usagi is the granddaughter of the leader of a prestigious ninja village, but she's such a klutz that she's never made it out of the kiddie class. Frustrated with Usagi's lack of progress, her great-grandfather sends her to marry Lord Hanzo and have lots of ninja babies. But the lord has no interest in her or her childbearing potential!

Usagi is reunited with Hanzo, but Usagi's bliss ends abruptly when Hanzo's sister Suzune pays a visit and starts throwing ninja stars at the happy couple. Suzune won't accept Usagi as a potential sister-in-law if she can't evade her deadly attacks. Can Usagi survive Suzune's ninja offensive?

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Story & Art by

Rinko Ueda

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Shojo Beat

Tail of the Moon

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Tail of the Moon

Volume 5

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Story Thus Far...

It is the Era of the Warring States. Usagi is a failure as a ninja, but she is a skilled herbalist. She is working hard to qualify as a ninja so she can be the bride of Hattori Hanzo (aka "Shimo no Hanzo").

Usagi is living in Hamamatsu as Lord Ieyasu Tokugawa's herbalist. She is told that she may return to Iga once she succeeds in creating the elixir of eternal youth, so she heads for a mountain with Goemon and the others to meet a hermit who knows the recipe. There they meet the hermit, and after much trouble they are given the elixir. However, Yukimaru throws it into the fire! The hermit then teaches them that such an elixir should not exist, and tells them what eternal life truly is.

Usagi is given permission to return to Iga at last--and not only does Hanzo come to pick her up, but he even hugs her!! This leads him to tell her that she has gained too much weight. After they return to Iga, a mysterious woman suddenly appears...

HUH?
SISTER!!
WHAT?
HANZO HAS AN OLDER SISTER?!
YOU IDIOT.
YOU DIDN'T NOTICE ME AT ALL. HAVE YOUR SKILLS GONE RUSTY?

AH...
"LONG TIME NO SEE, HANZO." ♡
WHO IS THAT?!
IS SHE THE PERSON HANZO CHOSE?!

OH
MY BRIDE-ELECT.
YES.
YOUR BRIDE-ELECT?

EEEEEEEK
SH-SHE...
...SHE SEEMS EVEN STRICTER THAN HANZO.
BY THE WAY...
...WHO IS THAT PUNY GIRL NEXT TO YOU?
PUNY?!

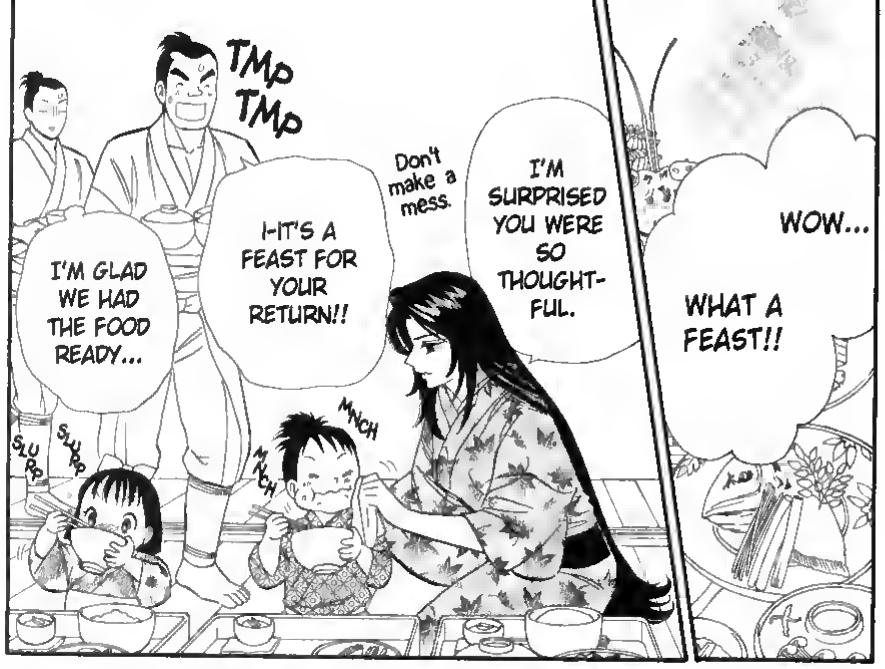
SHE'S MASTER MOMOCHI TANBA'S GREAT-GRAND-DAUGHTER ...
...AND MY BRIDE-ELECT.
BOW
N-NICE TO MEET YOU. MY NAME IS USAGI!

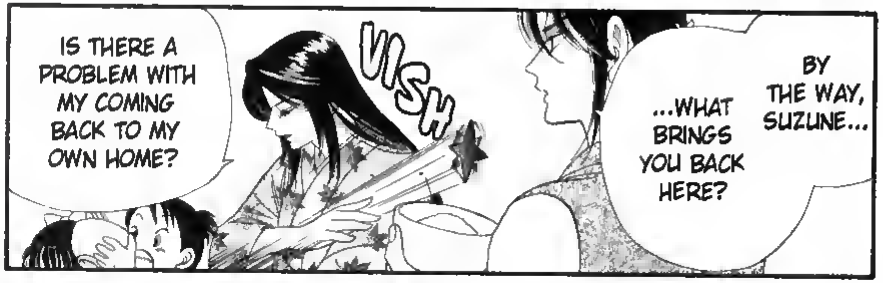
AAAARGH
SHE CALLED HANZO AN IDIOT!!
THOUGH I LACK SLEEP, I ADMIT I HAD MY GUARD DOWN.
TMP TMP
TH-THUMP TH-THUMP

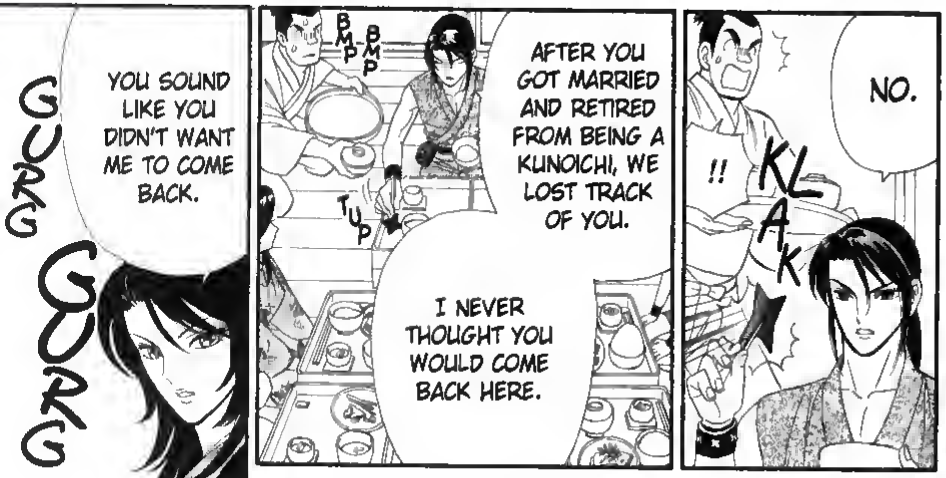
A NINJA SHOULD ALWAYS HAVE ONE'S FIVE SENSES ON ALERT.

PLEASE RAISE A FINE FAMILY AND BRING PROSPERITY TO IGA.
...IF YOU'RE THE WOMAN HANZO HAS CHOSEN, THEN THERE'S NOTHING FOR ME TO SAY.
YOU'RE A LITTLE CHUBBY, BUT...
TH-THUMP
YOUR NAME IS USAGI?
YES!!
VISH
HANZO'S SISTER ACCEPTED ME TOO!!

WAAAH
WHAT ARE YOU SHOUTING ABOUT?!
UM
UM
BECAUSE...
WAAHWAAH
HER LOUD YELL MUST HAVE SURPRISED THEM...
DON'T CRY.
WOAH!
BUT THIS IS HOW I RAISED YOU.
I DON'T THINK IT'S GOOD TO THREATEN SMALL BABIES...
WAAH
WAAH
DON'T CRY.
I DON'T LIKE CHILDREN WHO CRY.
SILENCE
THAT'S RIGHT. AFTER OUR MOTHER DIED...
Y-YOU RAISED HANZO?
SUZUNE, WHEN DID YOU GIVE BIRTH TO TRIPLETS?
I'M SORRY!!
WAAH
NOW, NOW.
WAAH


TMP TMP
I'M GLAD WE HAD THE FOOD READY...
I-IT'S A FEAST FOR YOUR RETURN!!
Don't make a mess.
I'M SURPRISED YOU WERE SO THOUGHT-FUL.
WOW...
WHAT A FEAST!!
SLURP SLURP
MNCH MNCH


IS THERE A PROBLEM WITH MY COMING BACK TO MY OWN HOME?
VISH
...WHAT BRINGS YOU BACK HERE?
BY THE WAY, SUZUNE...


YOU SOUND LIKE YOU DIDN'T WANT ME TO COME BACK.
GURG GURG
BMP BMP
TUP
AFTER YOU GOT MARRIED AND RETIRED FROM BEING A KUNOICHI, WE LOST TRACK OF YOU.
I NEVER THOUGHT YOU WOULD COME BACK HERE.
NO.
!!
KL AK

TMP TMP
MOMMY...
SHAK
SWIP
AN UN-MARRIED GIRL SHOULDN'T ACT WANTONLY IN PUBLIC!
AAAH!

WHICH OF YOU CALLED MY CHILD A BRAT?
HUH?
WHEN DID YOU GIVE BIRTH TO SO MANY CHILDREN ...?
FOOD!
TMP TMP
HOW DID YOU GET IN HERE?!
YOU BRAT...
I'M HUNGRY!
TMP
TMP
AAAGH
SU... SU...
MISTRESS SUZUNE!!

OH.
KEE!
STAGGER STAGGER
MY STOMACH... FEELS LIKE IT'S TWISTING...
ZWIK
KEE!
BONK
SASUKE.
AAAH!
WHA...
WHY?!
ALL MY MEDICINE IS GONE!!
WHERE'S MY MEDICINE?
SASUKE DEMOLISHED MY ROOM!
HEY!
WHAT WAS THAT?
GURG
GURG
DASH
HUH?!
YOU'RE A COMPLETE SLOB!
HUH?
GURG

USAGI, YOU SHOULD EAT SOMETHING.
I'LL GAIN WEIGHT IF I EAT.
GURG
GURG
GURG
SUCH AN UNPLEASANT SOUND...
WHAT IS THIS?
USAGI, YOU'RE DROOLING...
USAGI IS ON A DIET RIGHT NOW.
GURG
I'M SORRY.
YOU LACK TRAINING IF YOUR STOMACH GROWLS WHEN YOU'RE HUNGRY.

TH-THUMP
TH-THUMP
I'M MAMEZO.
I-I'M GOING TO GET SOME MEDICINE.
GURG
AREN'T YOU GLAD YOU HAVE A NEW FRIEND?
HEE

THIS IS MY NEPHEW AND NIECE. BE NICE TO THEM.
OKAY!
MNCH
MNCH
CHMP
CHMP

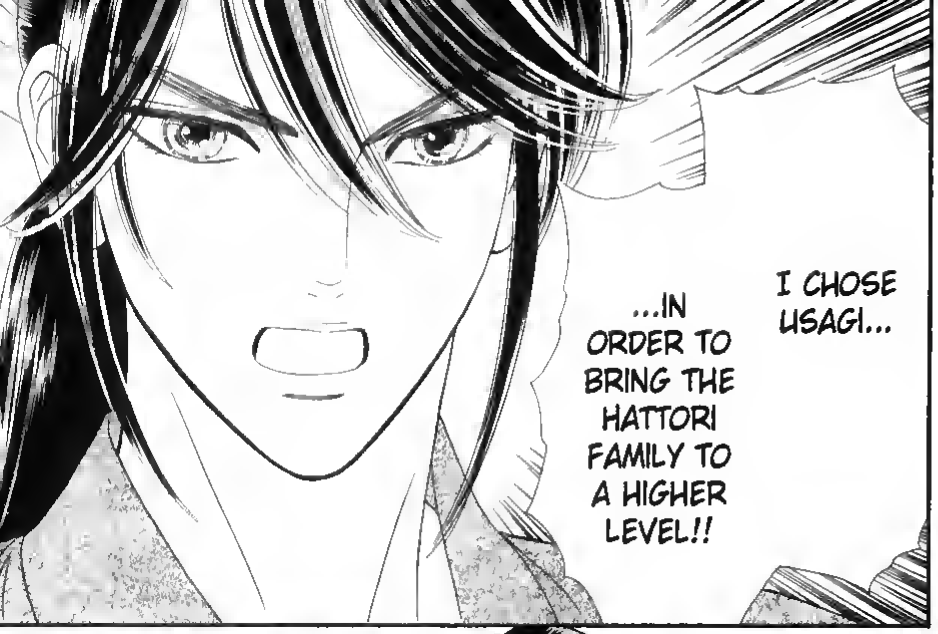
MOMMY, I WANT MORE!
...
MAMEZO.

AAAAAH!
SA...
SASUKE MESSED UP MY ROOM AND--
THE THINGS I HATE THE MOST IN THIS WORLD ARE IDIOTS, PEOPLE WHO MAKE EXCUSES...
...AND WOMEN WHO CAN'T CLEAN UP AFTER THEM-SELVES!!
YEAARGH!!
USHE

...I'D NEED TO USE THIS LID AGAIN...
I NEVER THOUGHT ...
WHY IS THIS ROOM SO MESSY?!
I-IT'S NOT MY FAULT.
SHAK
SHAK
EEEEEEK
SHAK SHAK
SILENCE !!

WHAAAAAT?!
...USAGI IS NOT A QUALIFIED NINJA YET.
HUH?

TOK
HANZO!!
A KUNOICHI MARRYING INTO THE HATTORI FAMILY SHOULD BE SKILLED ENOUGH TO EVADE MY NINJA STARS, ISN'T THAT SO?
SU-ZUNE...
SISTER...
PLEASE DON'T RAISE YOUR HAND AGAINST USAGI.
AH...
OH!
I APOLOGIZE FOR MY SISTER FRIGHT-ENING YOU.


I CHOSE USAGI...
...IN ORDER TO BRING THE HATTORI FAMILY TO A HIGHER LEVEL!!

HANZO!!
YOU HAVE NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT, SUZUNE.
I PROMISE YOU I WILL TRAIN USAGI SO THAT SHE WILL BE QUALIFIED.
I-I'LL DO MY BEST!!
USAGI...
...STARTING TONIGHT, SLEEP IN MY ROOM.

HUFF
HUFF

HANZO...
I TOOK MOTHER'S PLACE AND RAISED YOU TO BE A MAN WHO WAS STRICT WITH NINJUTSU BUT KIND AT HEART.

I WILL MARRY HER AFTER SHE IS QUALIFIED, OF COURSE.
HANZO!!
ARE YOU OUT OF YOUR MIND?!
OOH
OW
FIP
FUP

BUT THIS GIRL STILL HASN'T QUALIFIED AS A NINJA AT HER AGE. IF YOU TAKE THIS GIRL AS YOUR WIFE OUT OF SYMPATHY...

...YOU WILL DESTROY THE HATTORI FAMILY!!

HANZO CHOSE ME! ♡

SO MANY UNBELIEVABLE THINGS HAVE HAPPENED TONIGHT... ♡

...SO WHILE MY SISTER IS WITH US, I WANT YOU TO WEAR THIS ARMOR AND SLEEP BESIDE ME.

KUP

HUH?!

WOBBLE

WOBBLE

KLANK

PHEW...

KLANK

SUZUNE MAY ATTACK YOU IN YOUR SLEEP...

H-HANZO, IT'S HEAVY.

WARGH

SO THAT'S WHAT HE MEANT!

SLEEP QUIETLY.

KLANK

I'M HUNGRY...

IT'S HOT...

IT'S HEAVY...

OOOH.

GURG

GURG

TH-THUMP

HA...

HANZO!!

HURRY UP AND GET INSIDE.

2WINK

BUT I MIGHT GET TOO DIZZY BECAUSE MY BODY ALREADY FEELS SO HOT! ♡

HEE

USAGI...

...HURRY UP AND CHANGE INTO YOUR NIGHTWEAR.

TH-THUMP TH-THUMP

OH, I THINK I'M GOING TO GET A NOSE BLEED...

TH-THUMP TH-THUMP

TH-THUMP

YES...

TH-THUMP

TH-THUMP TH-THUMP

HANZO'S HAIR IS STILL WET FROM HIS BATH...

HOW CAN A MAN LOOK SO VERY BEAUTIFUL?

THIS IS YOUR NIGHTWEAR.

BUT I'M ALREADY WEARING IT...

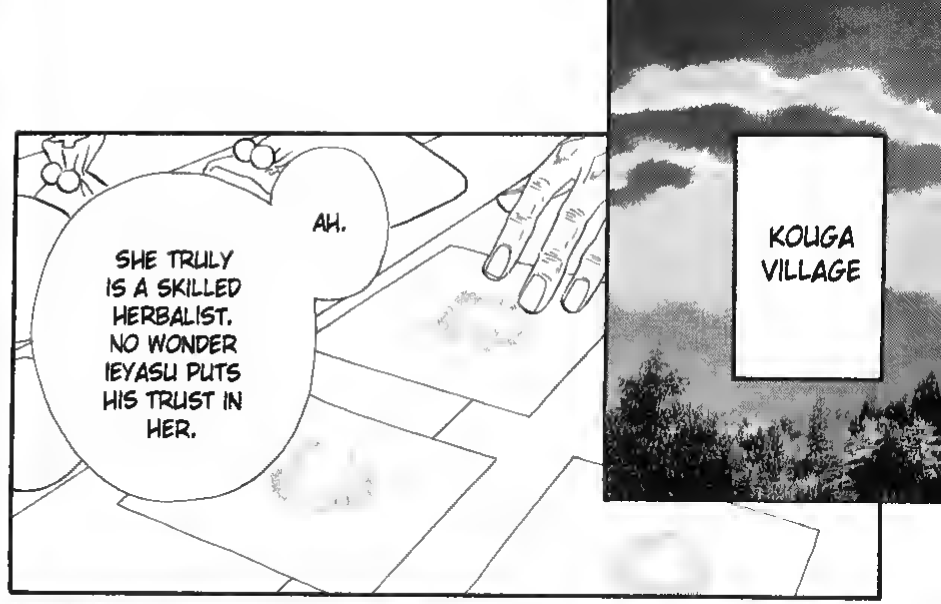
HUH?

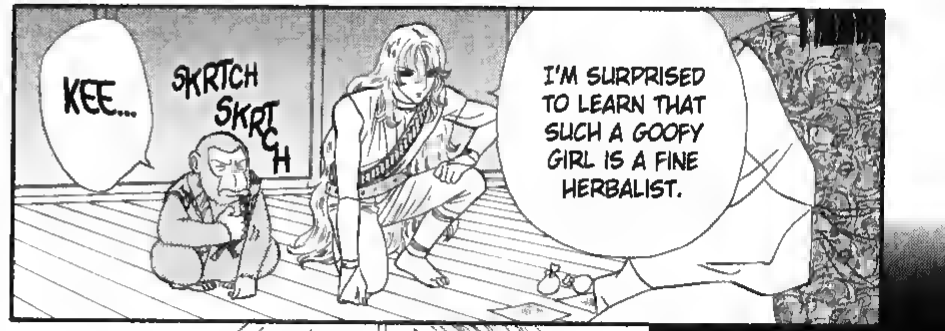
KLANK

Hello, it's Ue-Rin! ♪
We're now up to volume 5 of *The Tail of the Moon*.

It's due to everyone who is reading this manga right now that I am able to continue creating this happy-go-lucky manga!!
I read 100% of the letters I receive. I gather my energy and inspiration from them

I'd like to continue writing about my trip to Kouga here in this volume, so please look forward to it! ♪





SHUK
NOTHING...
WHAT'S THE MATTER?
I MUST HAVE IMAGINED IT.
ZW/K
I WILL MAKE YOU REALIZE THAT THIS GIRL ISN'T RIGHT FOR YOU.
AND YOUR TASTE IN WOMEN ALSO NEEDS TO IMPROVE.
YOU STILL NEED TO TRAIN MORE.

I...
I'LL LOSE WEIGHT AND BECOME A QUALIFIED NINJA...
HUFF
HUFF
SO PLEASE MAKE ME YOUR WIFE...
HANZO?
YES...

"WHAT KIND OF WIFE DO YOU WANT WHEN YOU GROW UP, HANZO?"
"A STRONG, WISE, AND BEAUTIFUL WIFE LIKE YOU, SISTER."
"OH MY..."
"...THAT'S NICE OF YOU TO SAY, HANZO."

TAIL OF THE MOON EXTRA: TODAY'S MISSION

"I WANT TO SEE HANZO IN A WHITE LAB COAT!"

-SHIMODA MICHIKO, KANAGAWA PREFECTURE

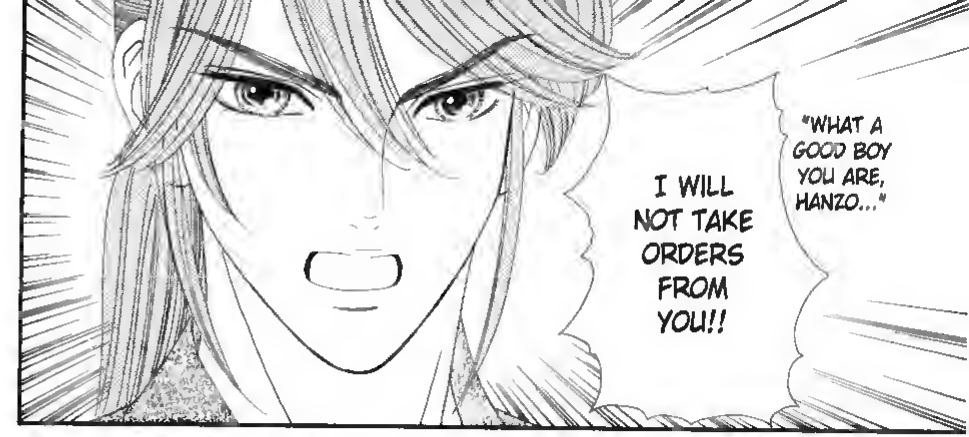
I BET ANY KIND OF ILLNESS WOULD BE QUICKLY CURED IF HANZO WERE A DOCTOR!
MISSION ACCOMPLISHED!
TAKE YOUR CLOTHES OFF.
DR. HANZO, PLEASE BE GENTLE...
This is embar-rassing.
Ooh!
YOU DON'T HAVE TO TAKE EVERYTHING OFF.

Tail of the Moon
Chapter 30

TAIL OF THE MOON EXTRA: TODAY'S MISSION

"I WANT TO SEE IGA'S BEAUTIFUL MEN AS PIRATES!"

-JOHNNY HANZO LOVE, HOKKAIDO

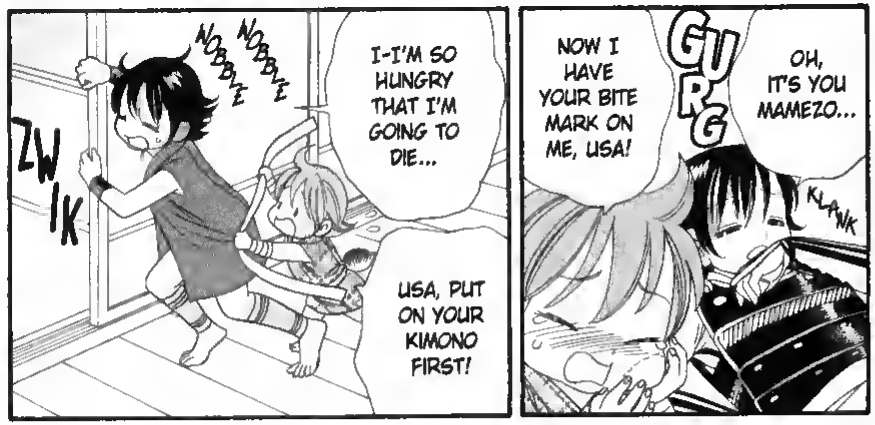

"WHAT A GOOD BOY YOU ARE, HANZO..."
I WILL NOT TAKE ORDERS FROM YOU!!

POK

VUP
HANZO...

POOF
USA, WAKE UP.
OH.
EVERYONE ELSE IS UP ALREADY...
USA, WAKE UP.
OW.

AH!
CHOMP
FOOD!
OH.
STOP IT!
THAT HURTS!
CHOMP


ZWIK
NOBBIE
NOBBIE
I-I'M SO HUNGRY THAT I'M GOING TO DIE...
USA, PUT ON YOUR KIMONO FIRST!
NOW I HAVE YOUR BITE MARK ON ME, USA!
GURG
OH, IT'S YOU MAMEZO...
KLANK

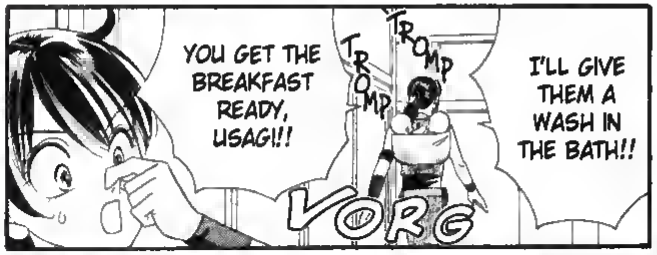
WHERE IS SUZUNE?!
HANZO...
WAAAH
WAAAH
WAAGH...
USAGI.
HAVE YOU SEEN MY SISTER ANYWHERE?
YARGH
NO, I HAVEN'T.
YOUR SISTER ISN'T AROUND?
WAAH
WHERE'S MOMMY?!
DON'T CRY.
I'VE SENT PEOPLE TO LOOK FOR HER.
...TAKE CARE OF THE CHILDREN FOR ME.
MAMEZO...
DON'T CRY.

I HAVE TO LOSE WEIGHT AND BECOME PRETTY.
NURRGH.
I MUSTN'T!!
YOU'LL GAIN WEIGHT IF YOU EAT IT.
AH!
Y- YUKI'S...
...CONFETTI.
ONCE I'M QUALIFIED AS A NINJA, I CAN MARRY HANZO.
SOB
WHEN HE SAID THAT...
"WEAR THIS ON SPECIAL OCCASIONS."
...I'M SURE HE WAS TALKING ABOUT THE WEDDING.
SUZUNE!!
I CAN'T WAIT TO MAKE A KIMONO OUT OF THIS. ♡
HEE! ♡

Stories About My Research Trip #1

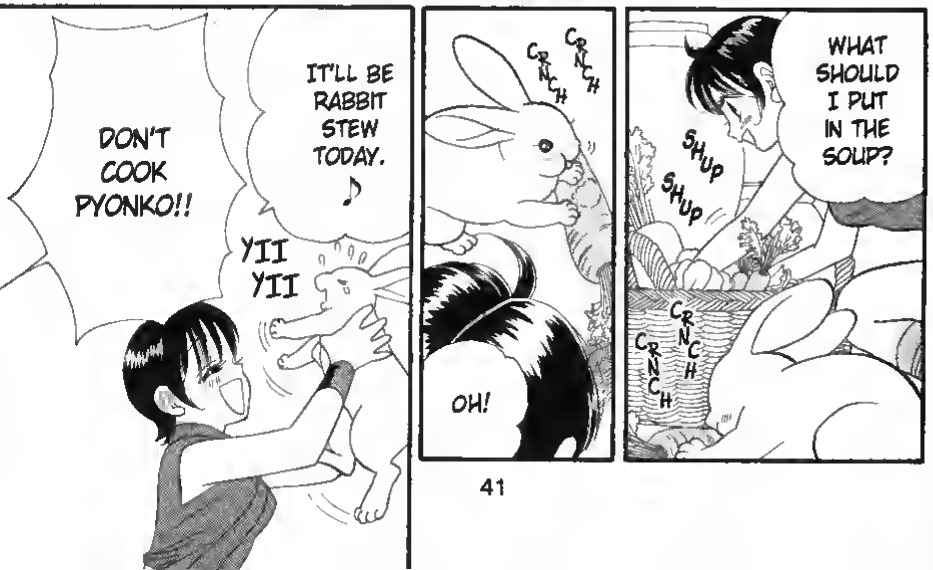
After the lady at the Kouga Ninjutsu House took me all around, I told her that I was there to do research. The lady then told me about an illustration book called *Saburo of Kouga* and taught me a lot about the Kouga ninja.

Whenever there is a manga or movie about ninja, the Kouga are always the bad guys...
B-BMP
There are some like *Saburo of Kouga* that are about good Kouga ninja, but those works aren't that famous...
S-sorry. If my main characters are ninja from Iga, I've got no choice but to make the Kouga ninja into the bad guys. I'm so sorry!



BOOF
KOFF
KOFF
FWOO
FWOO
I'M GOING TO GIVE IT ALL I'VE GOT!!
MAYBE I NEED TO COOK IT A LITTLE LONGER?
THE RICE LOOKS OKAY... ♡
OOH! ♡
STEAM
STEAM
CHAK

...AND THEN THROW IN THE INGREDIENTS. ♪
SHUP
SHUP
I PUT THE MISO IN THE HOT WATER... ♬
FOR THE MISO SOUP... ♪


DON'T COOK PYONKO!!
IT'LL BE RABBIT STEW TODAY. ♪
YII YII
CRNCH
CRNCH
OH!
SHUP
SHUP
WHAT SHOULD I PUT IN THE SOUP?
CRNCH
CRNCH

OH. HERE'S THE RICE. ♡
I-I'M SUPPOSE TO COOK THE RICE IN WATER, I THINK.

COOKING RICE ISN'T THAT DIFFERENT FROM MAKING MEDICINE.
I SHOULD BE ABLE TO DO IT!

I'VE NEVER COOKED ANYTHING IN MY LIFE!
WHAT SHOULD I DO?
DOOM

...DELICIOUS!!
IT'S...

OF COURSE. ♡
...THEN YOU MUST BECOME MY WIFE RIGHT NOW!!
IF YOU CAN MAKE SUCH DELICIOUS FOOD...
A DREAM COME TRUE! ♡

ZHAA
USAGI. ♡
HANZO. ♡
HUG

...IS A RACE AGAINST TIME!!
COOKING...
HUH?!
STAND STILL AND WATCH.
SHUP
ONCE THE RICE IS DONE, DON'T TAKE THE LID OFF AND LET IT STEAM INSIDE FOR A WHILE!!
THIS IS THE MOST IMPORTANT PART! DON'T FORGET!!
FOR THE RICE, YOU FIRST BOIL IT WITH LOW HEAT, AND THEN WITH HIGH HEAT!
FWOO
FWOO
WHILE YOU HEAT THE STOCK, YOU CUT UP THE VEGETABLES.
CHOP
CHOP
CHOP
THEN SOAK IT IN A LITTLE WATER!!
YOU WASH THE RICE QUICKLY!!
SHUP
SHUP

GET DOWN!!
!!
PUSH
HUH?
IT SHOULDN'T TAKE YOU TOO LONG TO LEARN.
YOU'RE AMAZING, HANZO. ♡
OOH, THE RICE IS SHINY!!

WHAT IS THIS?!
PET...?
Pyonko?
TROMP
TROMP
PYONKO?
PYONKO IS MY PET RABBIT!
YII
YII

THE RICE IS BURNT!!
SMOKE
SMOKE
WHY ISN'T THE LID ON THE POT?

WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN DOING THIS PAST 15 YEARS?!
WHAT?!
EEK!

VERY WELL...

I'M SORRY.
THIS WAS THE FIRST TIME I'VE COOKED.
THERE'S TOO MUCH MISO IN HERE.
AND NO STOCK!!

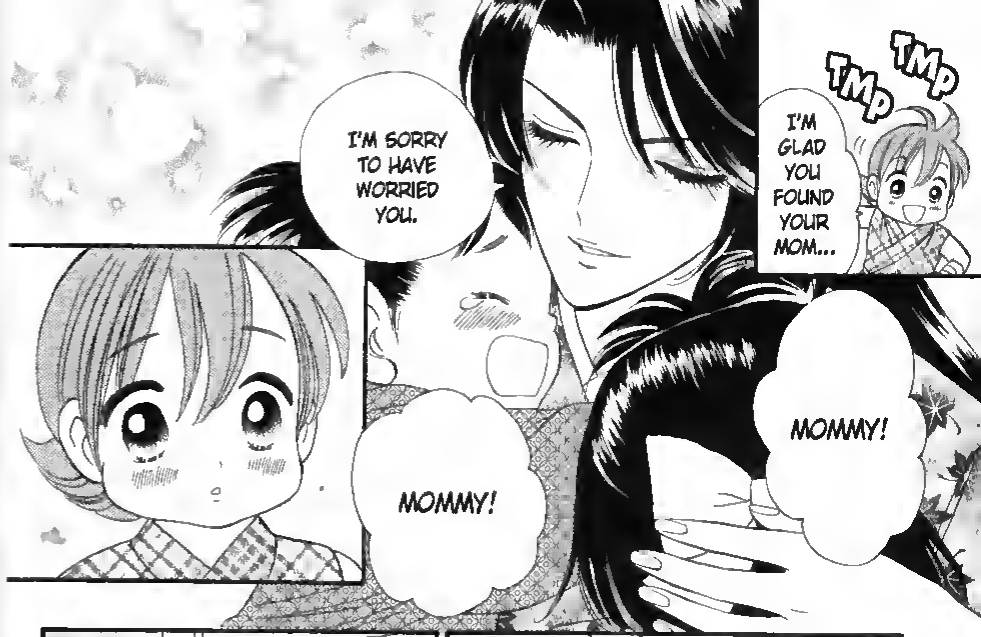
...THE LITTLE GIRL THERE.
AND...
MY NAME IS USAGI!!
Hi there.
MOM.
WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN?! YOU LEFT YOUR CHILDREN BEHIND!
DIDN'T IT TEACH YOU HOW HARD IT IS TO TAKE CARE OF CHILDREN?
WHAT KIND OF BRIDE-ELECT ARE YOU?
YOU LET HANZO DO ALL THE KITCHEN WORK WHILE YOU JUST STOOD BY AND WATCHED. WHAT KIND OF EDUCATION DID YOU RECEIVE?!
EH...
UMM...
THAT IS NOT YOUR JOB, HANZO!!
I WAS JUST TEACHING USAGI HOW TO COOK.
I'M SORRY!!
BOW

CHAK CHAK CHAK CHAK
TOK TOK
AAAH!
WHAT A PITIFUL SIGHT...
...WATCHING THE HEAD OF THE HATTORI FAMILY DOING THE KITCHEN WORK...
SUZUNE!!
DIG!
HUH?
W...
WAAH!

USAGI?!
IF YOUR SISTER, WHO RAISED YOU, TAUGHT ME...
...THEN I SHOULD BE ABLE TO MAKE DISHES THAT'LL SUIT YOUR TASTE, RIGHT?!
I WANT TO BE ABLE TO HELP YOU, HANZO!!
MOMMY!!
TMP
TMP
I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO YOUR GUIDANCE.
BOW
I'LL WORK HARD AT THAT TOO!
BUT USAGI, YOU STILL NEED TO TRAIN!

STARTING TODAY, I WILL TEACH HER ALL THE THINGS A WIFE NEEDS TO KNOW!
YOU, SISTER?!
PLEASE TEACH ME!
BUT THIS IS OUR PROBLEM, SO WE'LL--

MY CONFETTI!!
OH, CONFETTI.
THEY'RE SWEET.
THEY'RE MINE...
...GIVE IT BACK!!
DASH
FWOK
IT'S PRECIOUS CONFETTI GIVEN TO ME BY A GOOD FRIEND FROM HAMAMATSU!!
BUT IT'S NO ORDINARY CONFETTI!!
WHAT IS IT?
IT'S JUST CONFETTI...


I'M SORRY TO HAVE WORRIED YOU.
MOMMY!
TMP TMP
I'M GLAD YOU FOUND YOUR MOM...
MOMMY!

...WE'LL START TRAINING TOMORROW.
USAGI...
OKAY.
TROMP
TROMP

HE'S ALWAYS LATE WHENEVER THERE'S A MEETING...
YOU CAN HAVE THESE, MOMMY.

ZWIK
...THERE ARE PEOPLE OUTSIDE WHO HAVE COME TO COLLECT YOU FOR THE MEETING!!
MASTER HANZO...
MISTRESS SUZUNE, YOU'RE BACK!!
PHEW!
IS IT THAT LATE ALREADY?
I'LL BE RIGHT THERE!

I'M SORRY, USA.
I DIDN'T NOTICE HIM TAKING THE CANDY.
USA, ARE YOU ANGRY?
...
PLIP PLIP
I'M NOT ANGRY...
I'M USED TO HAVING HAVING PEOPLE YELL AT ME...
...BUT IT'S A LITTLE TOUGH TO HEAR THAT FROM HANZO'S SISTER.
SORRY, YUKI.
DON'T CALL ME "SISTER" UNTIL YOU HAVE MARRIED HANZO.

FWOK
FWOK
WOAH!
HERE YOU ARE!!
I'LL GIVE IT BACK TO YOU, OKAY?!
HMPH!!
RWL RWL
RWL
KASANO-SUKE...
...YOU MUSTN'T WASTE FOOD.
MY PRECIOUS CONFETTI...
WAIT, SISTER...
...FROM YUKI.
OKAY.
MY NAME IS SUZUNE.
LET'S GO BACK TO OUR ROOM.

GOOD-NESS...
YOU REALLY HAVE NO STAMINA!
SLUMP
HUFF
HUFF
I DON'T KNOW.
WHY?
BONK
THEN WHERE IS YOUR MOMMY?
USA ISN'T MY MOTHER.
MY...?
TMP
...THE SKIN IS COMING OFF...
MY HANDS...
YOU NEED TO WORK ON BUILDING UP YOUR STAMINA.
THAT WILL BE ALL FOR TODAY.
TMP
HUFF
HUFF
I DON'T KNOW THAT.
HUH?!
YOU DON'T?
HUFF
HUFF
WHERE'S MY MOTHER?
HUH?
TMP
TMP
USA...
HANG IN THERE, USA.
TMP
TMP
M-MY LEGS AND ARMS HURT.

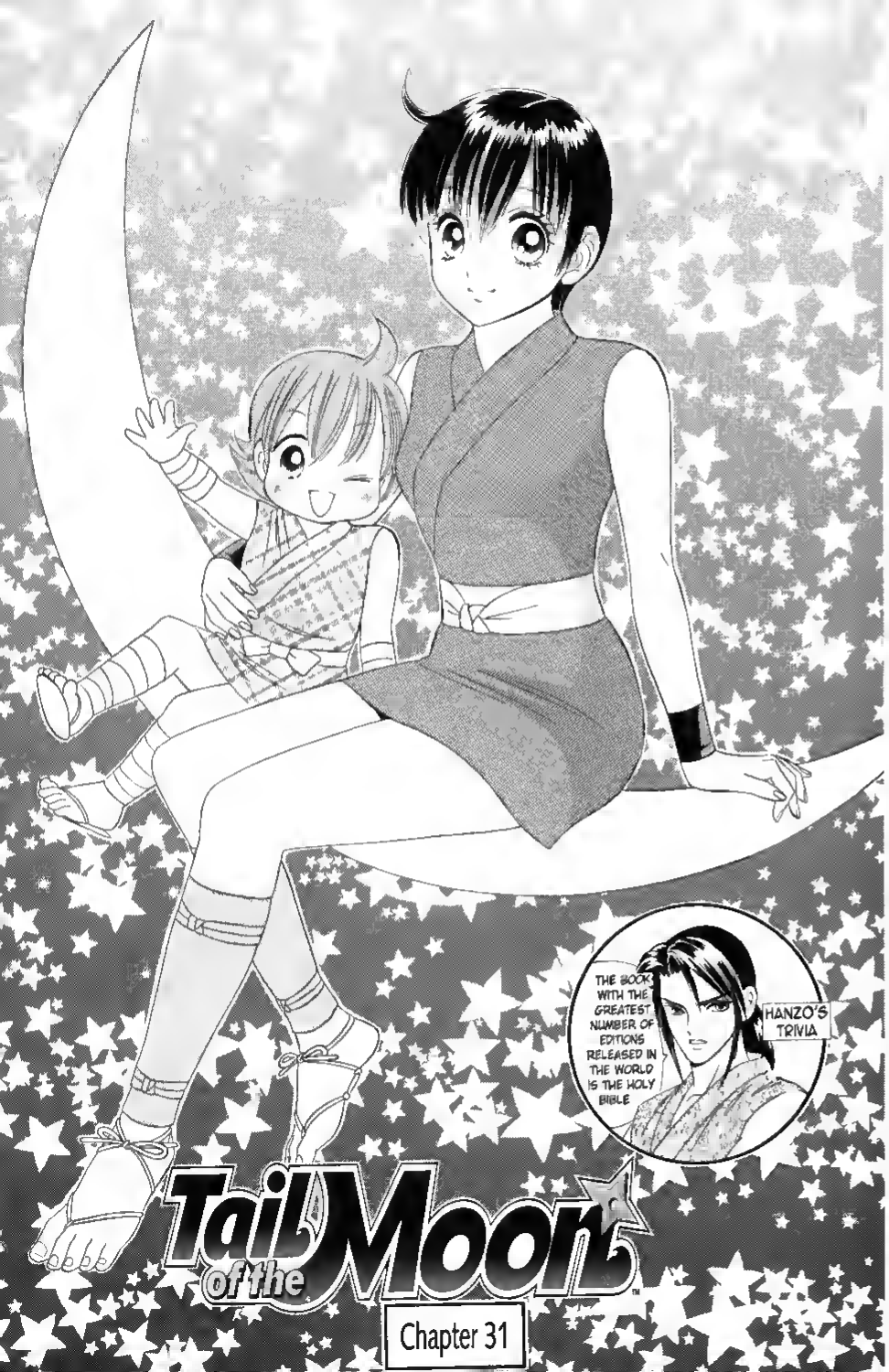
SHUP
ACK!
WASH IT AGAIN!!
THE DIRT IS STILL ON IT!
BUT I DON'T HAVE TIME TO BE DEPRESSED.
EVERYTHING I DO...
HUH...
WHEN YOU'RE CLEANING, ALWAYS START BY DUSTING THE CEILING!!
DON'T SPILL THE WATER!!
HUFF
HUFF
...IS FOR HANZO!!
YOUR MOMMY CAN'T DO ANYTHING.
BONK
OW.
YOU STAY OUT OF IT!!
JOLT
I'LL HELP TOO!
DASH
HEEZE
HEEZE

HANZO GAVE IT TO ME TO WEAR ON SPECIAL OCCASIONS...
WHY?
I'LL TEACH YOU HOW TO SEW USING THESE PIECES OF CLOTH.
SLAP
AAAH!
AH!

I-I'M GOING TO DIE UNLESS I EAT SOMETHING.
OH...
...WHAT A LOVELY KIMONO!
YOU LOOK GOOD IN IT TOO, KASANOSUKE.
NO.
I DON'T LIKE THE FLOWERY PATTERN ON IT!
OUR MOMMY MADE IT FOR US.

I WILL NOT.
AH!
USA!
THUD
WHAT HANZO BOUGHT BELONGS TO THE HATTORI FAMILY.
THERE IS NO REASON FOR ME TO APOLOGIZE TO YOU.

THOSE CLOTHES ARE FROM A ROLL OF CLOTH THAT HANZO BOUGHT FOR ME.
YOU STOLE IT!!
TUG
WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THIS?!
...
THAT WAS MY...
...TREA-SURE...
APOLOGIZE TO ME!!


THE BOOK WITH THE GREATEST NUMBER OF EDITIONS RELEASED IN THE WORLD IS THE HOLY BIBLE
HANZO'S TRIVIA
Tail of the Moon
Chapter 31

TAIL OF THE MOON EXTRA: TODAY'S MISSION

"I WANT HANZO IN A TUXEDO TO ESCORT ME!"

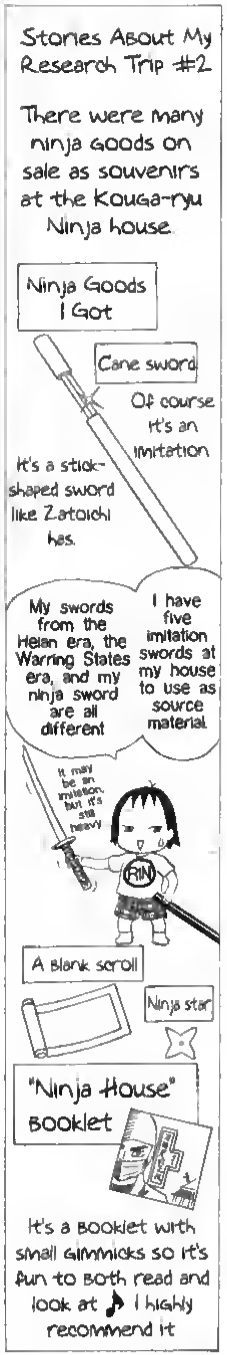
-TANAKA HINAKO, KANAGAWA PREFECTURE

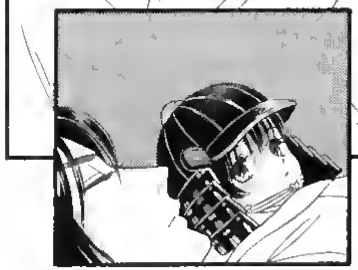
ARE YOU GOING TO GO CRY TO HANZO FOR HELP?
YOU MAY BE HIS BRIDE-ELECT, BUT THIS IS ONLY A MARRIAGE BETWEEN THE MOMOCHI CLAN AND THE HATTORI CLAN TO ESTABLISH TIES, ISN'T IT?
HANZO IS NOT MARRYING YOU BECAUSE HE LOVES YOU.

SHE'S SCARY...
"THERE IS NO REASON FOR ME TO APOLOGIZE TO YOU."
WHAT IS THAT LOOK ON YOUR FACE?

SUZUNE USED IT WITHOUT ASKING ME...
I DIDN'T KNOW IT WAS A ROLL OF CLOTH YOU BOUGHT FOR HER, HANZO.
SO THAT'S WHAT YOU WERE ARGUING ABOUT.
BUT IT WAS A TREASURE TO ME...
BUT IT WAS MINE...
WE CAN ALWAYS BUY ANOTHER ROLL.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.

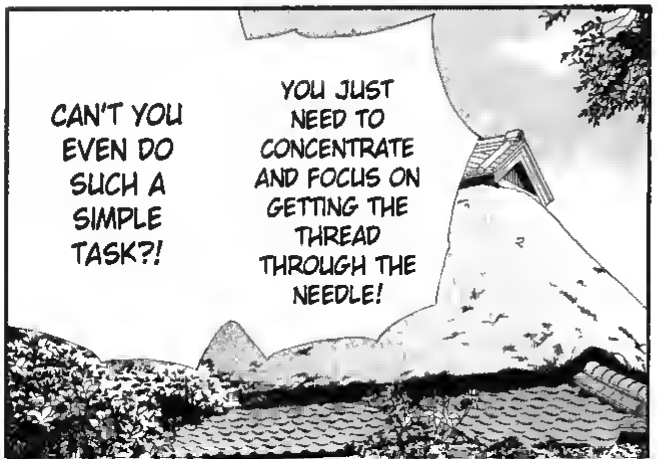
YOU ARE EARLY TODAY.
WELCOME HOME.
HANZO...
THAT'S...
WHAT IS GOING ON?
!!
WELCOME BACK, UNCLE HANZO!
THAT KIMONO...


Stories About My Research Trip #2
There were many ninja goods on sale as souvenirs at the Kouga-ryu Ninja house.
Ninja Goods I Got
Cane sword
Of course it's an imitation
It's a stick-shaped sword like Zatoichi has.
My swords from the Heian era, the Warring States era, and my ninja sword are all different
I have five imitation swords at my house to use as source material
It may be an imitation, but it's still heavy!
A blank scroll
Ninja star
"Ninja House" Booklet
It's a booklet with small gimmicks so it's fun to both read and look at ♪ I highly recommend it



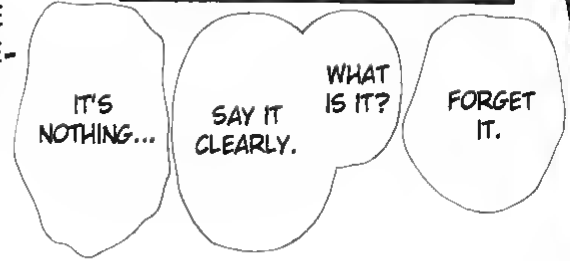
I'M NOT SURE...

...HE'LL EVEN SAY THAT TO ME...

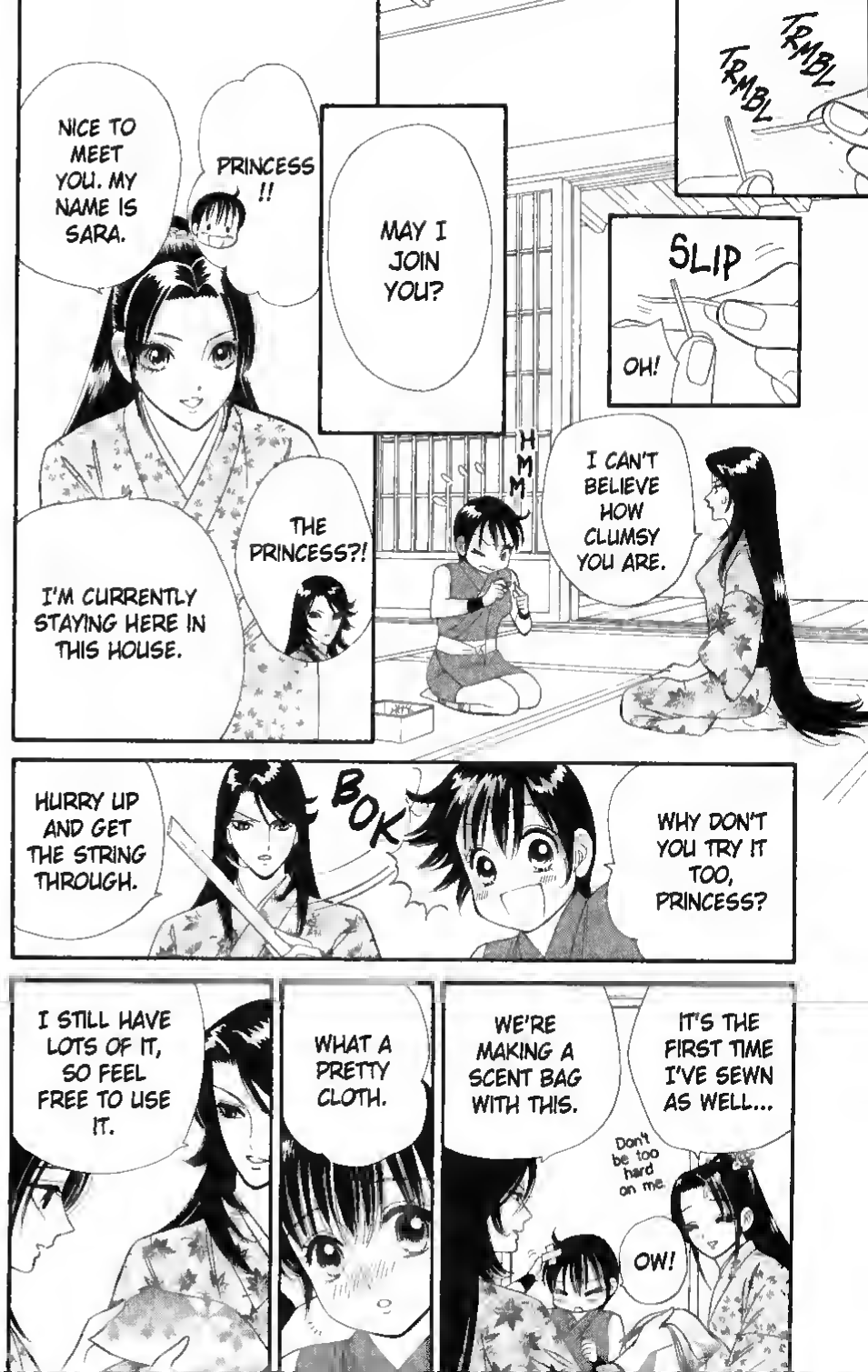


DID IT MEAN NOTHING TO HANZO?

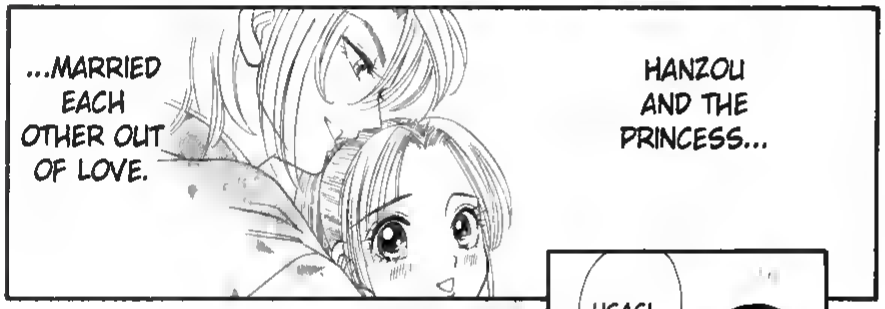
HANZO DID MAKE ME HIS BRIDE-ELECT...



NOT AT ALL.
YOU'RE DOING FINE FOR A BEGINNER.
...A PIECE OF MY TREASURE...
BUT IT'S...
THP THP
...
I'M BLEEDING.
SHUK SHUK
STAB
OUCH!
GRR GRR GRR
OOH. OOH.
SUZUNE, THAT'S TOO DANGEROUS.
TUP
VISH
!!
YOU NEED TO TRY HARDER!


NICE TO MEET YOU. MY NAME IS SARA.
PRINCESS !!
MAY I JOIN YOU?
TRMBL TRMBL
SLIP
OH!
I'M CURRENTLY STAYING HERE IN THIS HOUSE.
THE PRINCESS?!
HMM
I CAN'T BELIEVE HOW CLUMSY YOU ARE.
HURRY UP AND GET THE STRING THROUGH.
BOK
WHY DON'T YOU TRY IT TOO, PRINCESS?
I STILL HAVE LOTS OF IT, SO FEEL FREE TO USE IT.
WHAT A PRETTY CLOTH.
WE'RE MAKING A SCENT BAG WITH THIS.
IT'S THE FIRST TIME I'VE SEWN AS WELL...
Don't be too hard on me.
OW!

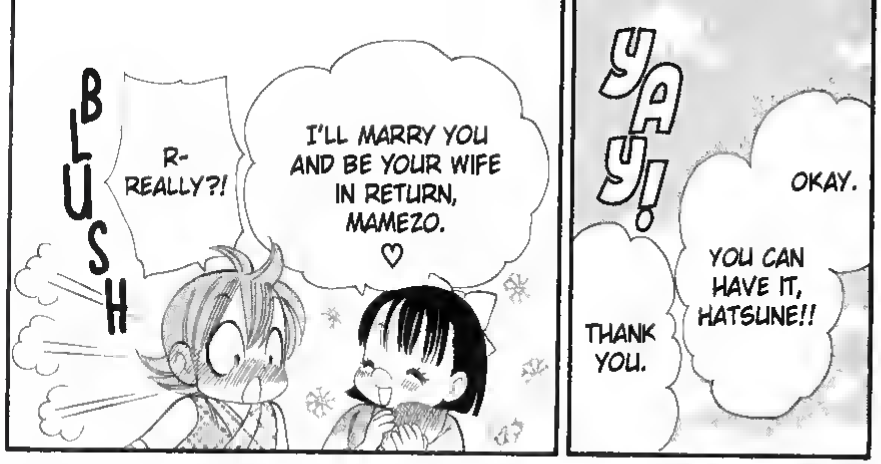
NO WAY!
SARA IS MINE!!
SARA, IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO SWITCH TO HANZO...
SUZUNE !!
JUST WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO SAY?!
WH-WHY DID SUCH A FINE GIRL DECIDE TO MARRY SOMEONE LIKE KAMI NO HANZOU...
TMP
TMP

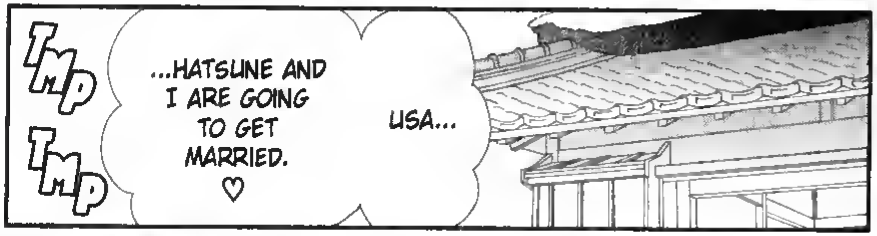

...MARRIED EACH OTHER OUT OF LOVE.
HANZOU AND THE PRINCESS...

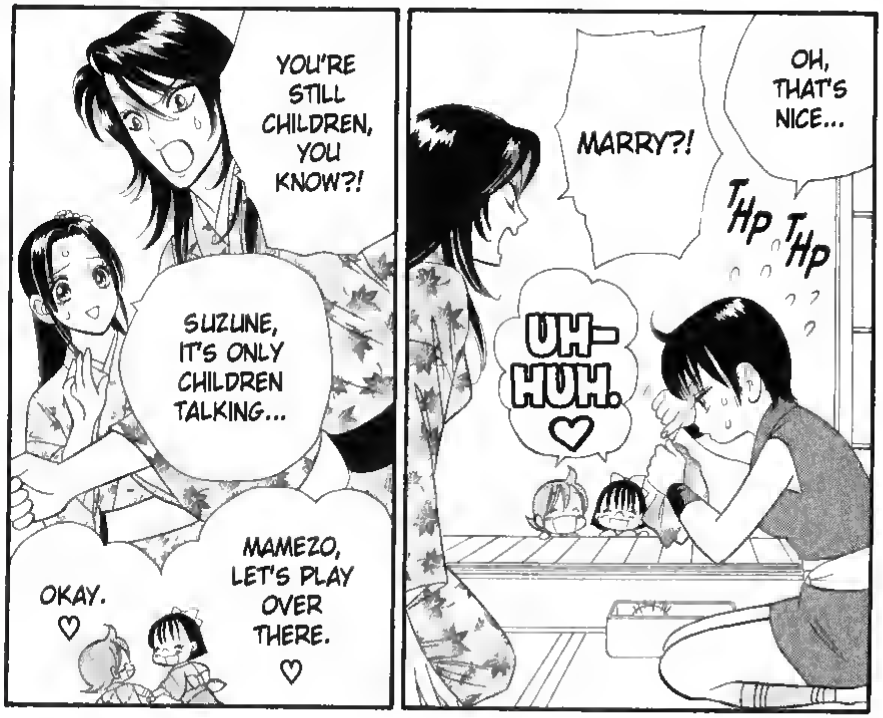
HANZO AND I...
OKAY.
IT'LL BE TOO MUCH FOR YOU TO DO BOTH AT ONCE.
...AREN'T LIKE THAT...
USAGI...
...WE'LL CONTINUE WITH YOUR TRAINING AFTER YOU HAVE COMPLETED MY SISTER'S HOUSEWORK TRAINING.

SHE'S FIT TO MARRY INTO THE HATTORI FAMILY.
HANZO.
CHOOSE THIS GIRL!!
SUZUNE, I...
SISTER...
WHAT WERE YOU DOING WHEN SUCH A WONDERFUL GIRL WAS RIGHT IN FRONT OF YOU?!

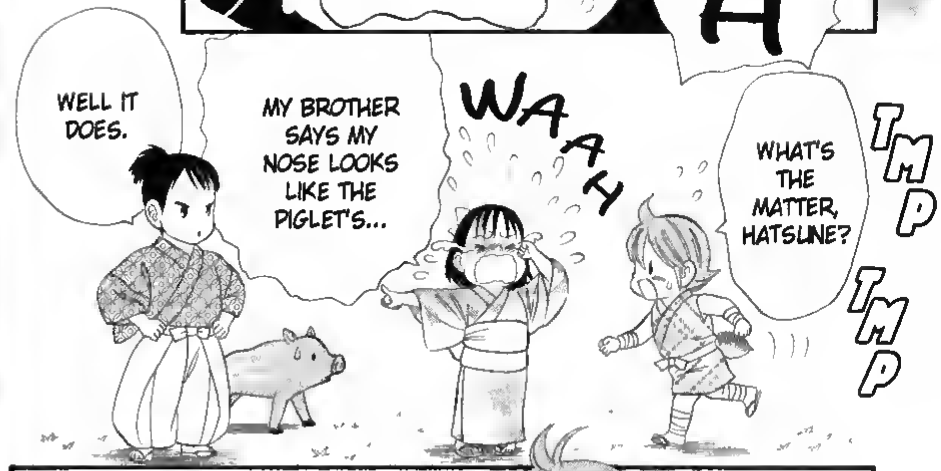
HANZOU.
...BUT SARA'S MY WIFE!
JOLT
WHAT?!
I'M GLAD...
...THAT YOU LIKE SARA...


BLUSH
R-REALLY?!
I'LL MARRY YOU AND BE YOUR WIFE IN RETURN, MAMEZO. ♡
YAY!
OKAY.
YOU CAN HAVE IT, HATSUNE!!
THANK YOU.


TMP TMP
...HATSUNE AND I ARE GOING TO GET MARRIED. ♡
USA...


YOU'RE STILL CHILDREN, YOU KNOW?!
SUZUNE, IT'S ONLY CHILDREN TALKING...
MAMEZO, LET'S PLAY OVER THERE. ♡
OKAY. ♡
MARRY?!
OH, THAT'S NICE...
THP THP
UH-HUH. ♡

WAAH

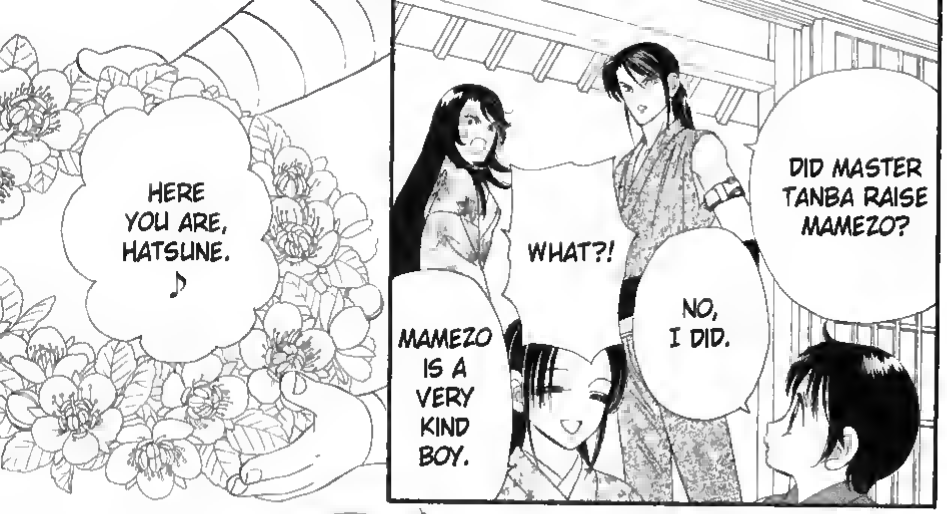

WELL IT DOES.
MY BROTHER SAYS MY NOSE LOOKS LIKE THE PIGLET'S...
WAAH
WHAT'S THE MATTER, HATSUNE?
TMP TMP

REALLY?
SOB SOB
YOU'RE CUTE, HATSUNE!!

How weird
What is he talking about?
HEH
REALLY CUTE. ♪

...
I WANT ONE TOO.

IT'S A POUCH MADE FROM THE TAIL OF A RACCOON DOG.
IT'S SO NICE.
WHY DO YOU HAVE A TAIL?
HEY, HEY!


HERE YOU ARE, HATSUNE. ♪
MAMEZO IS A VERY KIND BOY.
WHAT?!
NO, I DID.
DID MASTER TANBA RAISE MAMEZO?

IT LOOKS GREAT ON YOU.
THANK YOU, MAMEZO. ♡

IT'S CURLED UPWARDS LIKE THE PIGLET, AND IT'S REALLY CUTE. ♡
I LIKE YOUR NOSE.
HEE
JOLT

I WANT TO KNOW WHAT IT IS ABOUT ME THAT YOU LIKE!!
THAT'S NOT TOO CLEAR.
UMM...

...WHAT IS IT ABOUT ME THAT YOU LIKE?
MAMEZO...
EVERY-THING!

IT'S TOO TRIVIAL.
IT IS IMPORTANT TO DRAW THE LINE, EVEN WITH TRIVIAL MATTERS.

SUZUNE...
...YOU SOUND LIKE A CHILD.
I WON'T ALLOW IT.

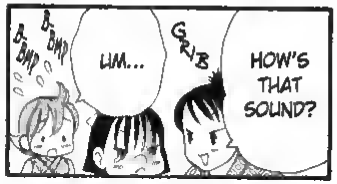
GET BACK HERE!!
TMP
TMP
TMP

I HOPE THEY'RE FAMOUS NINJAS.
WHO ARE THE PARENTS OF YOUR SERVANT?

MAMEZO WAS FOUND BY SHIRO WHEN HE WAS STILL A BABY SO WE DON'T KNOW WHO HIS PARENTS ARE.
WHO'S SHIRO?
THE PET DOG I HAD WHEN I WAS SMALL.
HMM... MAYBE THAT'S AT THE ROOT OF MAMEZO'S FEAR OF DOGS?

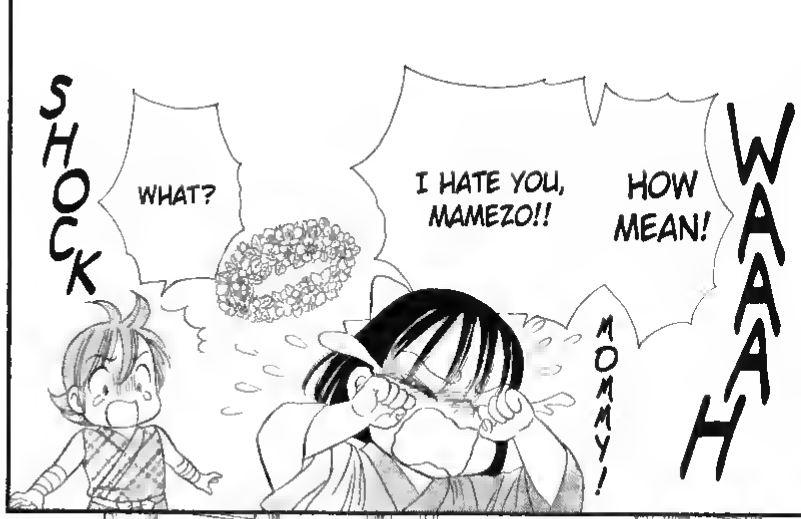
BOW
AH!
BOW DOWN, MAMEZO.
SORRY.
YOU!!
APOLOGIZE TO HATSUNE.
MAMEZO, WHAT DID YOU DO?!
I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING.
HATSUNE!
DASH

KASANO-SUKE.
WHAT ARE YOU TWO DOING? LET'S PLAY OVER THERE.
TMP TMP
I REALLY DIDN'T DO ANYTHING...
ALL I'VE BEEN DOING FOR THE PAST FEW DAYS IS BOW MY HEAD DOWN...


B-BMP B-BMP
UM...
GRIP
HOW'S THAT SOUND?

I'M SO TIRED...
WE'LL PLAY WITH YOU.
YOU CAN COME WITH US.
GRIN
OKAY!!

IF YOU MAKE HER CRY AGAIN, I'M NOT GOING TO FORGIVE YOU!!
SHOCK
I WON'T PLAY IF MAMEZO IS COMING!!
MAMEZO...
...GO AND MAKE UP WITH HER.
THEN...
PSST


SHOCK
WHAT?
I HATE YOU, MAMEZO!!
HOW MEAN!
WAAAH
MOMMY!

YOUR SERVANT MADE HATSUNE CRY.
Y-YES?
I'M GETTING THE WATER--
WAAAH
WHAT?
MAMEZO DID?!

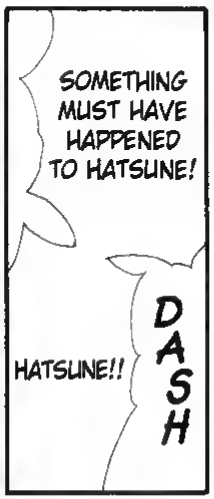
SREEK
SREEK
I-I'M SO HUNGRY...
HUFF
HUFF

GULP GULP GULP

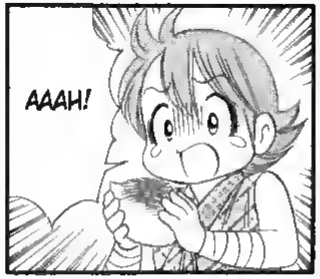
I'M ONLY DRINKING WATER, BUT I HAVEN'T LOST ANY WEIGHT.
SIGH
TUP TUP
USAGI!!

THE TAIL...

DASH
THERE YOU ARE!


SOMETHING MUST HAVE HAPPENED TO HATSUNE!
HATSUNE!!
DASH

FU FF FU FF
WHAT IS IT DOING HERE?


AAAH!

DON'T COME NEAR HATSUNE.
NOO!
WAAAH
I'M SO GLAD YOU'RE SAFE, HATSUNE.

MUD BALLS
WE'LL FORGIVE YOU IF YOU EAT THIS.
BUT...

HUH?
HATSUNE DOESN'T LIKE PEOPLE WHO ARE MEAN TO HER.

KOROO-OON...
DARUMA-SAAAN...

SWIP
...DA!

OKAY.
SING SLOWLY.

YOU'RE IT, MAMEZO.
LET'S PLAY, DARUMASAN GA KORONDA.
OKAY.
SURE.

HUH?
SILENCE

HUFF HUFF

HATSUNE?
KASANO-SUKE?!
HUFF HUFF

KAW KAW
WHERE ARE YOU?!

TMP TMP TMP
WHERE DID YOU GO?

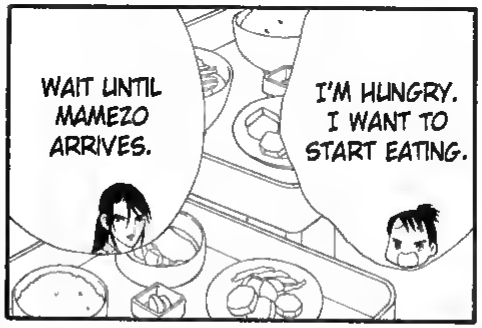
JOLT
HOW'D YOU GET SO DIRTY?!
HUFF HUFF
HUH?
OH
MAMEZO, YOU'RE A MESS.

I... I...
GO AWAY! YOU'RE DIRTY.
ME?!
THIS IS BECAUSE YOU DIDN'T RAISE HIM UP PROPERLY!

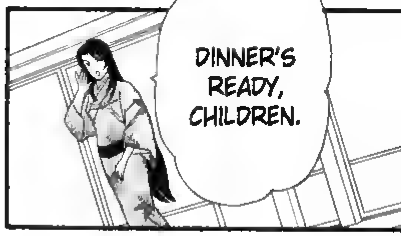
I'LL GO AND TAKE A BATH.

EAT IT!
STOP IT!
NO!
I CAN'T EAT THOSE!

UMF!

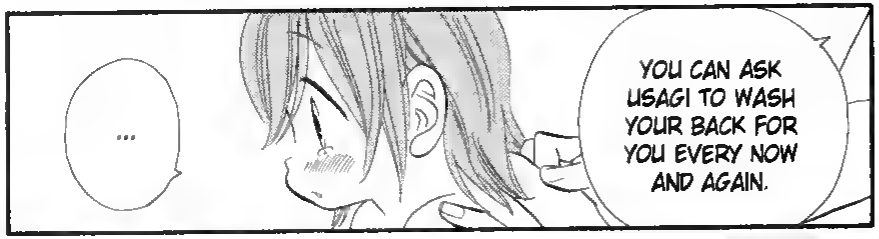

WAIT UNTIL MAMEZO ARRIVES.
I'M HUNGRY. I WANT TO START EATING.

I'M SORRY I'M LATE...
TMP TMP
HMPH.


DINNER'S READY, CHILDREN.

URGH.
COMING!
KOFF KOFF

OH... THAT'S WHAT YOU MEAN.
I DO, BUT I ALWAYS DO IT BY MYSELF.
THAT TICK-LES!
IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE SOMEONE HELPED ME BATHE.
WHAT.
HAVEN'T YOU BEEN WASHING?!

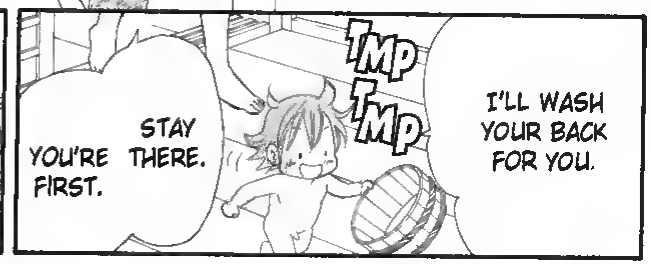

...
YOU CAN ASK USAGI TO WASH YOUR BACK FOR YOU EVERY NOW AND AGAIN.

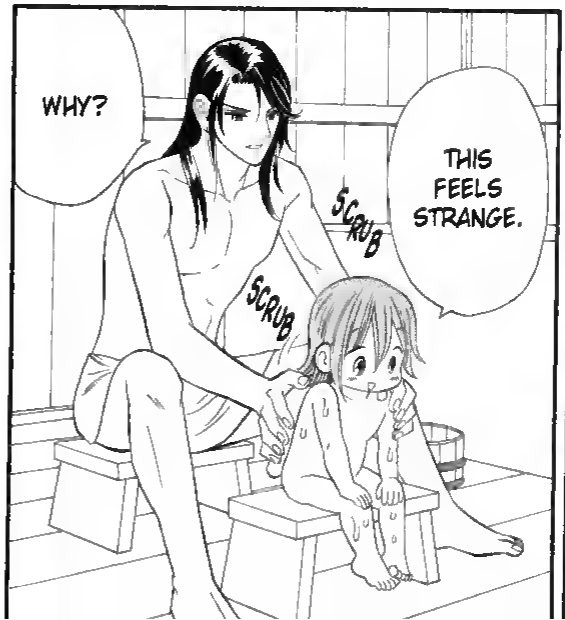
SOB

...USA KEEPS GETTING SCOLDED...
B-BECAUSE OF ME...
WHAT'S THE MATTER?
WAAAAH

ZWIK
HANZO...
DO YOU MIND IF I JOIN YOU?

ME?


YOU'RE FIRST.
STAY THERE.
TMP TMP
I'LL WASH YOUR BACK FOR YOU.


WHY?
THIS FEELS STRANGE.
SCRUB
SCRUB

SPOOSH
ACK!
IS IT TOO HOT?
IT'S FINE.

HANZO...
SNIFF
SNIFF
SWIP

I'LL WASH YOUR BACK ONCE I'VE WARMED UP, HANZO.
THANK YOU.
SPLOOOSH
YEEEH!
GEH.
OKAY!
DON'T JUMP INTO THE BATHTUB.

RIGHT, MAMEZO?
I WON'T CRY...
OKAY...

WAAH
IT IS NOT YOUR FAULT, MAMEZO.
BUT...
BOYS DON'T CRY.

IF THERE'S ANYTHING WRONG, YOU TELL ME RIGHT AWAY.

TAIL OF THE MOON EXTRA: TODAY'S MISSION

"I WANT TO SEE HANZO IN A VAMPIRE OUTFIT!"
-GRIFFITH, WAKAYAMA PREFECTURE & DOTE MASAKO, KOUCHI PREFECTURE

HANZO IS SO SEXY. ♥ I'M GOING TO GET A NOSE BLEED EVEN BEFORE HE SUCKS MY BLOOD.
MISSION ACCOMPLISHED!
GIVE ME YOUR BLOOD!
HERE YOU ARE! ♥

HE SCRUBBED MY BACK FOR ME, SO I'M SHINY AND CLEAN NOW. ♪
HANZO IS...
...REALLY KIND.
HEE
...DOESN'T SHE WANT THE TAIL?
HAT-SUNE...
I WONDER WHY WE CAN'T GET ALONG...
BMPH
WOAH!
OINK

I'M GOING TO TAKE A BATH TOO!
ZWINK
TMP
TMP
TMP
USA, IS YOUR NOSEBLEED OKAY?
S-SORRY...
I-I'M FINE.
I'M JEALOUS ...
I WANT TO TAKE A BATH WITH HANZO TOO!
PLUB
PLUB
...ASK BEFORE OPENING THE DOOR.
USAGI...
WE'VE JUST FINISHED.
SNORG

INFORMATION CORNER ♪
I'm going to start a branch of the Manga School in the next volume. If you have any questions pertaining to manga creation, please feel free to ask me.
It's a manga where Usagi, a girl who aspires to become a manga artist, along with her assistant Mamezo, learns from Master Ue-Rin on how to create a manga. I've drawn it in a way so you can enjoy it whether you're aiming to become a manga artist or not. Please check it out!
Aim for your debut!!
I'm currently serializing "Ue-Rin's Manga School" in Margaret with Tsuki no Shizuku (Tale of the Moon)

PIGLETS ARE SUPPOSED TO SLEEP OUTSIDE.
SUZUNE, WHAT ARE YOU DOING AT THIS TIME OF NIGHT?
SLAM
BE MORE CAREFUL FROM NOW ON!
AH!
HANZO...
...SHE THREW MY PIGLET OUTSIDE.
TMP TMP
BUT...
DON'T FORGET!
AWW
NO.
I'M A BOY...
MAMEZO...
...DO YOU WANT TO SLEEP IN MY ROOM?
THERE'S A STRONG BOY.

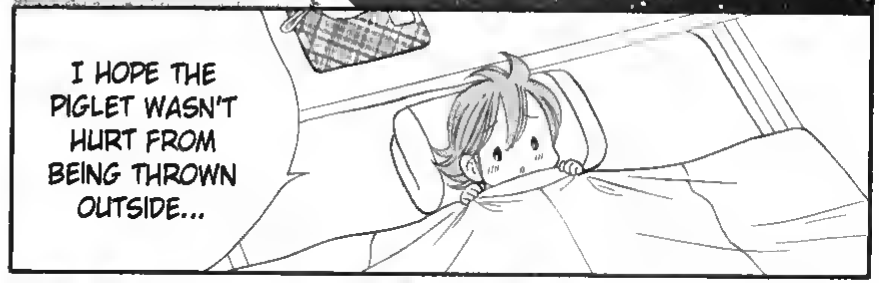
VUP
YOU MUSTN'T KEEP AN ANIMAL IN THE ROOM.
OH!
OINK
SO THIS IS WHERE THE ANIMAL SMELL WAS COMING FROM.
TMP
ZWIK
OINK OINK
KICK KICK
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
ACK!
OINK
PIGLET!!
TOSS

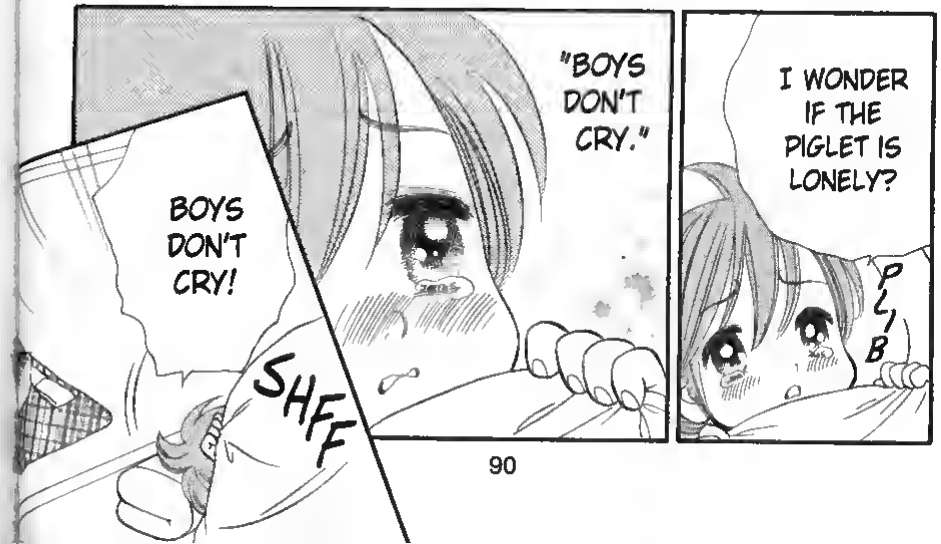
Stories About My Research Trip #3
When I was choosing what ninja souvenirs to buy, the lady suggested that I get the Hatomugi tea!! As I stood there with a ? mark over my head...
A pharmaceutical company is managing this place and we sell Hatomugi-tea as well.
A pharma-ceutical company?!
I got to taste the tea.
I wrote about this in volume 2 before, but after Japan became peaceful, many ninjas were out of jobs. They decided to use their knowledge of herbs and medicine to create what has become present-day pharmaceutical companies.
So if I lived in the modern world, I would be a pharmacist or a doctor?!
That's if you pass the national exam.
HEE!

BOO!
TMP
TMP
TMP
TMP
...
HA HA HA HA
LET ME TRY TOO!
NO.
BMP
OH!

I CAN'T MOVE...
KLANK
OKAY.
IT WAS NOTHING.
H-HAS MAMEZO GOTTEN IN TROUBLE AGAIN?
HANZO...
HUFF
HUFF

I'M TRYING TO...
SLUMP
SHUP SHUP
YOU NEED TO BUILD YOUR STAMINA.


I HOPE THE PIGLET WASN'T HURT FROM BEING THROWN OUTSIDE...


BOYS DON'T CRY!
SHFF
"BOYS DON'T CRY."
I WONDER IF THE PIGLET IS LONELY?
PLIB

ARE YOU GOING TO TEACH ME AGAIN?
OKAY!
YOU CAN COME SHOW THEM TO ME WHEN YOU'RE DONE.
I HAVE WORK TO DO.
TROMP
TROMP
HANZO?
IF YOU DON'T HAVE ANYTHING TO DO, WHY DON'T YOU PRACTICE YOUR WRITING?
...ONE.
TWO.
MAMEZO.
TEN AND...

NI...
HA...
RO...
I...
TO...
HE...
HO...

TO...
HE...
HO...

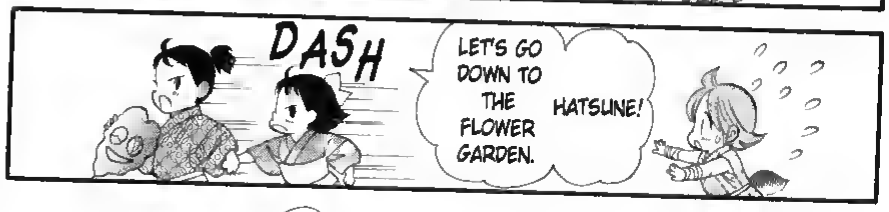
OINK
OINK
OINK
I DID IT! ♪
I DID IT! ♪
TMP
TMP
DONE!!

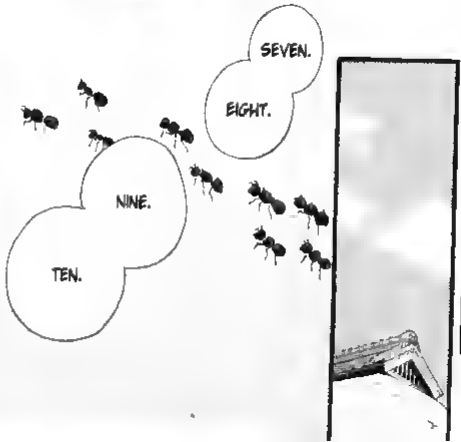
YOU CAN GO AND PLAY ELSE-WHERE.
HUFF
HUFF

DASH
OKAY.

SUFF
SUFF
DON'T WORRY, MAMEZO.
SHE'LL SCOLD US AGAIN IF YOU DO...
WHAT IS IT?
I-I CAME TO HELP USA...
TH-THUMP

CAN I PLAY TOO?
CAN...
TH-THUMP
TH-THUMP

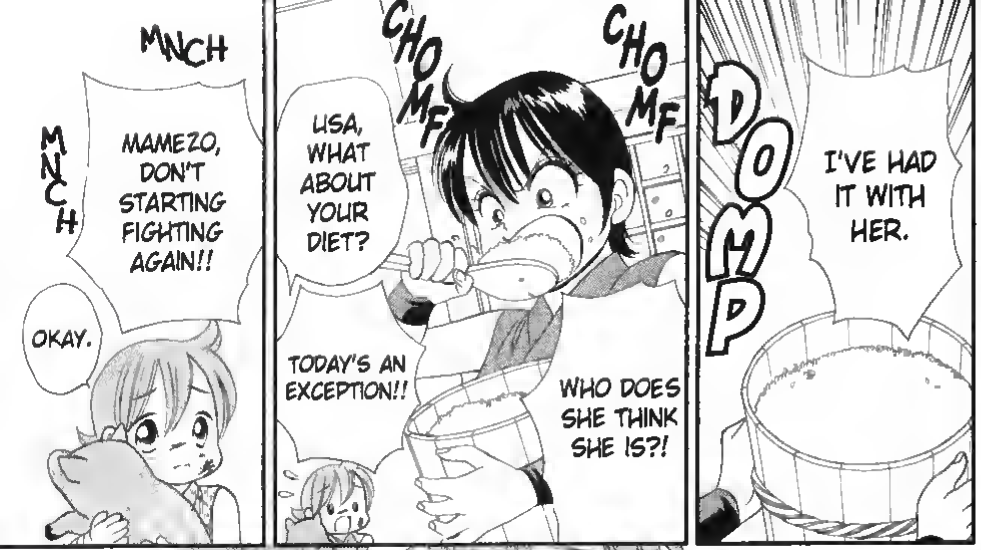

DASH
LET'S GO DOWN TO THE FLOWER GARDEN.
HATSUNE!


SEVEN.
EIGHT.
NINE.
TEN.

TMP
TMP
TMP
SIGH.

TMP TMP

I SAID I'M TAKING YOU OUT FOR A WALK...
TUG TUG
OINK
PIGLET!
HEY!
YOU STUPID PIG!
MOVE IT!!
OINK OINK
SHUPO
DON'T BE MEAN TO THE PIGLET!
ACK!
BIG BROTHER AND MAMEZO ARE FIGHTING!
MOMMY!!
HUFF HUFF
MAMEZO, WHY WERE YOU FIGHTING?
WAAAH
KASANOSUKE WAS BEING MEAN TO THE PIGLET...
NO!!
I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING WRONG.
There, there.
It hurts!
LET'S JUST APOLOGIZE FOR THE TIME BEING.
USAGI!
TAKE THAT BOY AND GO BACK TO YOUR OWN VILLAGE!!
PUM
PUM
AAAH!
HOW DARE YOU BE MEAN TO THE PIGLET!
GRAB
STOP THAT!
WAAAH
MOMMY!
TOSS
WAARGH!
MAMEZO!


MNCH
MAMEZO, DON'T STARTING FIGHTING AGAIN!!
MNCH
OKAY.
CHOMF
CHOMF
USA, WHAT ABOUT YOUR DIET?
TODAY'S AN EXCEPTION!!
DOMP
I'VE HAD IT WITH HER.
WHO DOES SHE THINK SHE IS?!

THAT'S NOT TRUE!
THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH YOU BEING BY MY SIDE, MAMEZO!!
USA...
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
...I'M GOING TO GET YOU INTO MORE TROUBLE.
IF I STAY HERE...
I'LL GO BACK TO THE VILLAGE WITH THE PIGLET...
USA...

LET'S GO, MAMEZO!!
I'M NOT GOING ANY-WHERE.
MY!
WHAT A CHEEKY GIRL!
I'M GOING TO BECOME HANZO'S WIFE!!
WHY?
THE HATTORI FAMILY HAS NO NEED FOR A WIFE THAT CANNOT EVEN TEACH HER SERVANT MANNERS!!

HELP!
HURRAY! I WANT SOME!
SHOULD I BAKE YOU SOME SWEET POTATOES?
URRRGH
URRRGH
IT'S HEAVY...
HELP ME, KASANO-SUKE.
I'LL BRING THE POTATOES OVER.
BE CAREFUL. IT'S DANGER-OUS.
KRIK
KRIK
...I'LL LOOK AFTER THE FIRE FOR YOU.
MISTER...
BIG BROTHER?
KRIK
KRIK
GRIN
SHUP
KRSH
KRSH
URRRGH
URRRGH

TMP
TMP
DO YOU WANT TO START LEARNING KANJI TOMORROW?
SURE!!
HMM...
VERY GOOD.
RO RO HA HA TO TO
DON'T RUN IN THE CORRIDOR. YOU TWO SHOULD FIND SOME TIME TO STUDY LIKE MAMEZO.
SURE!!
TMP
TMP
WHERE?
WHERE?
I FOUND IT!
IT'S YOUR DESK!
YOU TWO GO AND HELP HIM.
YEAH, OKAY.
HMPH
HMPH
MAMEZO
GO AND PULL THE SPARE DESK OUT FROM THE SHED.
OKAY!

F...
FWOOM
OH!
OH!
FIRE!!
WHAT SHOULD WE DO, BIG BROTHER?!
I-INSIDE...
AH...
AH...
WHERE'S MAMEZO?!
DASH
THE SHED!
BRING WATER!!
MAMEZO...
HUFF
HUFF
GRAB
MASTER HANZO, IT'S TOO DANGEROUS.
MAMEZO'S INSIDE!!
LET GO OF ME!
FWOOM
FIRE!
FIRE!!
DONK
WOAH!
FWOOM
DASH
FFSH
FFSH
HUH?
KRAK
TUMP
AH!
HUH?!
FWOOM
FIZZ
HEEEE
HEEEE
HUFF
HUFF
FWOOM...
AH!

SPLASH
WE NEED MORE WATER!
I WILL NOT LET GO, NO MATTER WHAT!!
LET GO!!
...
FWOOM
USAGI...

DASH
SPLOSH
VUP
USAGI!!
MAMEZO...
KOFF
MAMEZO!
HYOO
MAMEZO!

KEEP POURING WATER ON HIM!
HANG IN THERE, MAMEZO!!
IT HURTS...
SPOOSH
OW!
GRIND GRIND
SHOOSH
IT'S GOING TO START HURTING EVEN MORE IF YOU DON'T TREAT IT!
IT'S COLD!
IT HURTS!
THE OINTMENT IS READY!
USA...
I'VE... MADE THINGS HARD FOR YOU AGAIN...
DON'T LIE ON YOUR BACK FOR SOME TIME.
OKAY...
IT HURTS...
IF YOU KEEP USING THIS OINTMENT, YOU'LL GET BETTER SOON.
TUP
TUP

YOU TWO AGAIN!!
TMP
DASH
HE'S STILL BREATHING.
IS MAMEZO ALL RIGHT?!
THIS IS UN-BELIEVABLE--
SHUT UP AND GET OUT OF MY WAY!!
A LOT OF WATER!
GET ME A TUB FILLED WITH WATER!!
RIGHT !!
HUH?
BMP

YOU!!
Y...
SLAP
AAH!
BIG BROTHER...
SLAP
IT WASN'T ME...!
OUCH!
OUCH!

ANYTHING FOR YOU, MAMEZO!
FOR ME...?
I WASN'T EXPECTING THAT TO HAPPEN!
IT'S YOUR FAULT, BIG BROTHER!
I'VE ACTUALLY GOT BURNS ALL OVER MY BODY TOO...
OW!
...DON'T YOU TELL ANYBODY THAT I WAS THE ONE WHO PUT THE FIRE ON MAMEZO!
HATSUNE...

I'LL NEVER FORGIVE THOSE WHO PICK ON MAMEZO, EVEN IF I HAVE TO DIE FOR IT!!
KILL ME IF YOU WANT TO!
USAGI...

I'M NOT GOING TO STOP UNTIL YOU APOLOGIZE.
STOP NOW.
STOP ACCUSING HIM OF SOMETHING HE DIDN'T DO!
HE SET MAMEZO ON FIRE!
SUZUNE...
...PLEASE STOP.
TMP
TMP

Tail of the Moon

Chapter 33

TAIL OF THE MOON EXTRA: TODAY'S MISSION

"I WANT HANZO TO BE A TOUGH COACH." ♡

-AYA UENO, KANAGAWA PREFECTURE

I TOOK YOUR PLACE, AYA. THIS ACTUALLY MIGHT BE A LITTLE ADDICTING...
MISSION ACCOMPLISHED!
YES...
...COACH !!
CRY ONLY WHEN YOU'VE REACHED THE TOP AND HAVE BECOME THE VICTOR!
BOMP
BOMP
IF I WIN THE NEXT MATCH, PLEASE MARRY ME!

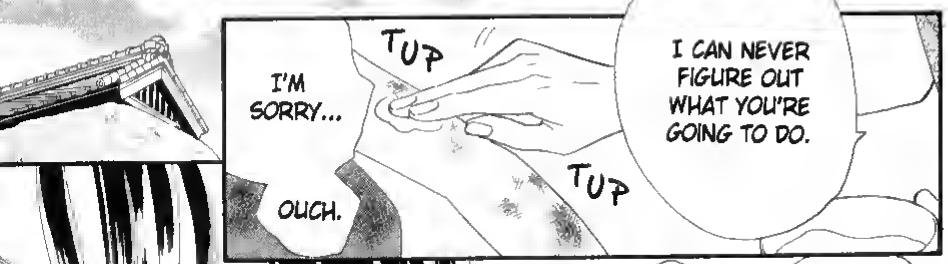
AND I...
"I'LL NEVER FORGIVE THOSE WHO PICK ON MAMEZO, EVEN IF I HAVE TO DIE FOR IT!!"
TARE
SHE'S GOING TO KILL ME...!!
...WON'T TOLERATE ANYONE WHO RAISES THEIR HAND AGAINST MY BELOVED SON!!
SUZUNE!
I'M SORRY!!

TAIL OF THE MOON EXTRA: TODAY'S MISSION

"I WANT TO HAVE TEA AT A CAFÉ WITH GOOD-LOOKING MEN!"
-KE-CHAN-SAN, IWATE PREFECTURE

THE "DOUBLE HANZO(U)" WITH THEIR COOL GARCON LOOK STIMULATED MY APPETITE. ☆
MISSION ACCOMPLISHED!
CAFÉ
HANZO, YOU'RE NOT SUITED FOR THIS BUSINESS.
I'M AFRAID SHE'LL GET DIABETES!!
SHE COMES HERE EVERY DAY AND EATS 40 CAKES...
HAPPINESS!♡
MNCH
MNCH
SCP

REALLY...
I THOUGHT I WAS GOING TO BE KILLED...
TH-THUMP
TH-THUMP
I...
WAAAH
TUG
YOU TWO, COME WITH ME!!

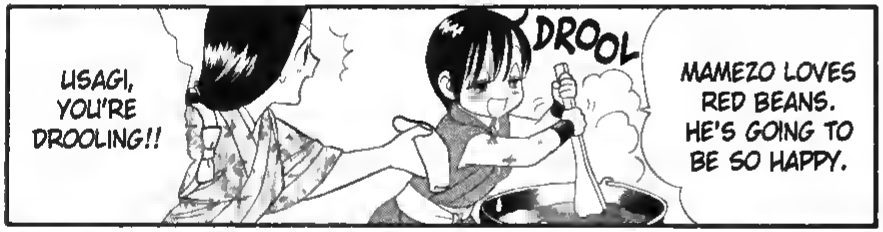

I'M SORRY...
OUCH.
TUP
TUP
I CAN NEVER FIGURE OUT WHAT YOU'RE GOING TO DO.

YOU'VE GROWN, USAGI.
HEH
WHAT?
BUT...
...I HAD TO DO IT FOR MAMEZO'S SAKE...
YOU'RE THE FIRST PERSON I'VE EVER SEEN WHO WENT UP AGAINST MY SISTER.
OW!

WAAAAH
I'M SORRY! I'M SORRY!
I'M THE ONE WHO SET THE FIRE!
SHUFF
KASANO-SUKE...

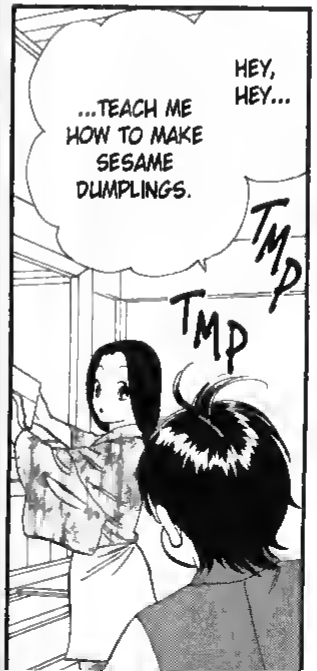
I LOVE RED BEANS. ♡
IT WILL TASTE EVEN BETTER IF YOU PUT RED BEAN PASTE INSIDE.
...THAT'S EASY. ♪
OOH...
YOU COAT THE DUMPLINGS WITH THE SESAME SEEDS YOU'VE USED TO SQUEEZE THE OIL OUT OF...
KNEAD
KNEAD
KNEAD
KNEAD
KNEAD

IT SMELLS SO GOOD! ♪
KEEP MIXING THE BEANS ON LOW HEAT SO THEY DON'T BURN.


USAGI, YOU'RE DROOLING!!
DROOL
MAMEZO LOVES RED BEANS. HE'S GOING TO BE SO HAPPY.

Y-YOU DON'T HAVE TO EAT IT ALL...
I'LL TAKE RESPONSIBILITY AND EAT ALL THE BEANS.
ACK!

COMPARED TO THE FIRST TIME I MET YOU, YOU'VE GROWN A LOT...
GROWN...?
TH-THUMP
DOOM
IT'S TRUE, BUT...
NOOO...
PLUMP
...SIDEWAYS...


HEY, HEY...
...TEACH ME HOW TO MAKE SESAME DUMPLINGS.
TMP
TMP

MAMEZO, IS THERE SOMETHING YOU WANT TO EAT?
UH... SESAME DUMPLINGS...
LEAVE IT TO ME!!
GOT-CHA!!

IT HURTS...

YOU NEED TO BEAR THE PAIN FOR ABOUT TWO DAYS!
IT STINGS...
ZZT
ZZT

GOOD MORNING.
USA?
YOU'RE STILL MAKING THE DUMPLINGS?!
YAWN
ZWIK
TA-DAH!
I'VE SUCCEEDED IN MAKING REALLY GOOD DUMPLINGS.
Y-YOU DIDN'T SLEEP?
I MADE BREAKFAST AS WELL.
HUH?!
TWEET
TWEET

I'M GOING TO REMAKE IT!!
HUH? YOU'VE ALREADY MADE IT THREE TIMES!
AND IT'S LATE...
HMM...
IT'S GOOD.
IT IS GOOD, BUT...
...IT LACKS SOME-THING.
I WANT TO MAKE THE BEST SESAME DUMPLINGS FOR MAMEZO!!
I CAN MAKE IT MYSELF NOW, SO LET ME DO IT!
OKAY. I'll be going then.
I'M GOING TO MAKE A DUMPLING THAT IS SO GOOD...
...THAT MAMEZO'S PAINS WILL DISAPPEAR ONCE HE EATS IT!!
OW!

MASTER HANZO...
...IT MAY BE NICER IF YOU WERE JUST TO COMPLIMENT HER FOR NOW.
FIGURE IT OUT ON YOUR OWN.
HUH? HOW?!
BUT IT COULD BE BETTER.
NOT BAD FOR YOU, USAGI.
YAY.

I CAN EAT THE FOOD IF I MAKE A MISTAKE...
URGH!
I'LL DO THE COOKING EVERY DAY FROM NOW ON.
DON'T ASK ME TO COMPROMISE!!

THERE'S STILL MORE IF YOU WANT SECONDS.
I...I'M FINE.
...SHE MUST'VE EATEN A LOT OF FOOD WHILE SHE WAS COOKING.
THAT STOMACH ...
PLUMP

I WONDER IF SHE'S STILL ANGRY WITH ME?
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT. WHY DON'T YOU EAT TOO, USAGI?
WHERE'S SUZUNE AND THE CHILDREN?
THEY DON'T WANT TO EAT.

YOU MADE ALL THIS BY YOURSELF, USAGI?!
JUST THE WAY YOU TAUGHT ME BEFORE, HANZO.
VEGEN

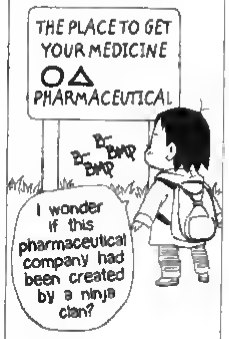
TH-THUMP
SIP
HANZO, HOW IS IT?
HOW IS IT?!
...
I SEE THAT A MASTER HERBALIST ALSO HAS COOKING TALENTS AS WELL.
REALLY?!
THEN I'LL KEEP MY EYES CLOSED. ♡
DELI-CIOUS!!
STOP STARING. IT'S MAKING IT HARD FOR ME TO EAT.
PLIM

I'M SORRY I'VE BEEN MEAN TO YOU.
MAMEZO...
Here's some flowers.
I GOT YOU A NEW ONE BECAUSE I BURNT THE OTHER ONE.
A TAIL...
...ACTUALLY I... LIKE YOU A LOT, MAMEZO.
I'LL BE YOUR BROTHER THEN.
SO YOU HAVE TO MAKE ME YOU WIFE, MAMEZO!!
SO HURRY UP AND GET BETTER SO I CAN PLAY WITH YOU.

IT'S SO GOOD!!
It has red beans inside.
I'VE NEVER HAD SESAME DUMPLINGS THIS GOOD!
M-MAMEZO...
I'VE MADE A LOT FOR YOU.
YOU COME IN TOO, BIG BROTHER.
TUG
HATSUNE!!
VUP
DON'T MOVE!!
YES! I'M FINE.
BONK
HUH.
OW.
MAMEZO, ARE YOU OKAY?!
HMPH
KASANOSUKE!

Stories About My Research Trip #4

I now understand why I saw so many advertisements for pharmaceutical companies


THE PLACE TO GET YOUR MEDICINE
○△ PHARMACEUTICAL
BE BARP
BE BARP
I wonder if this pharmaceutical company had been created by a ninja clan?

I felt this back in Iga too, but talking to the people who live in those areas and listening to their stories helped me realize the footsteps these ninja had left behind

If you ever get the chance, please visit Iga and Kouga ♪

See you all in volume 6! ♪

Rinko Ueda

SIP
EH?
TH-THUMP TH-THUMP
DID YOU MAKE THIS MISO SOUP, USAGI?
YES.
SUZUNE!!
GULP
IS IT TOO SALTY?
IS IT TOO BLAND?!
LOOK, SHE'S FROWNING!!

TASTES GOOD.
TH-THUMP TH-THUMP
I'M PREPARED FOR MEAN REMARK AND NINJA STARS!
VUP

TMP
TMP
A FEW DAYS LATER ...
THANK YOU.
OH, KASANOSUKE AND HATSUNE HELPED TOO?
USA! HERE ARE THE VEGETA-BLES.
OKAY!
YOU CAN GO AND PLAY UNTIL THE FOOD IS READY.

ADDING A LITTLE SAKE WHEN YOU BOIL THE RICE GIVES THE RICE AN EXTRA SHINE.
SHUP

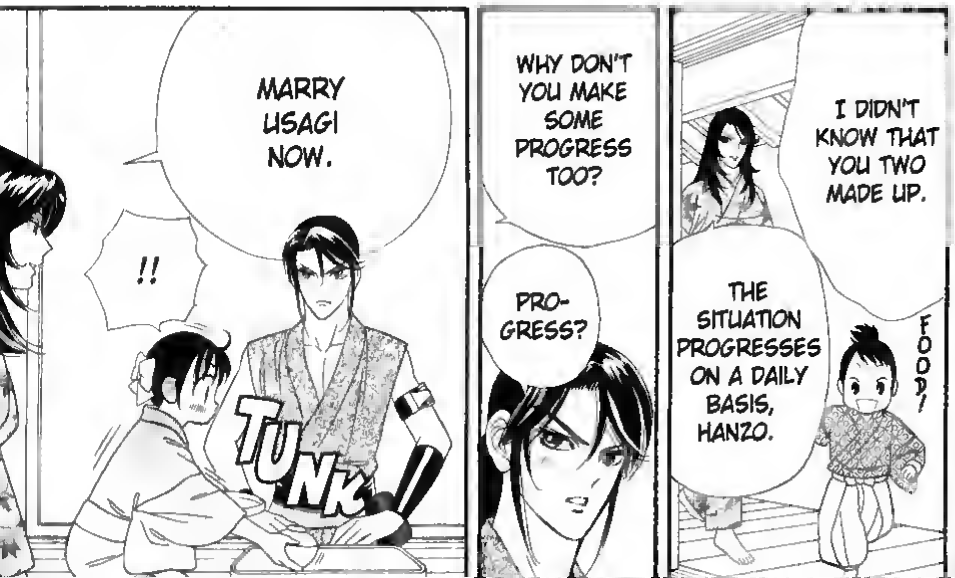
I WONDER HOW MANY DAYS IT'S BEEN SINCE I LAST TALKED WITH SUZUNE?

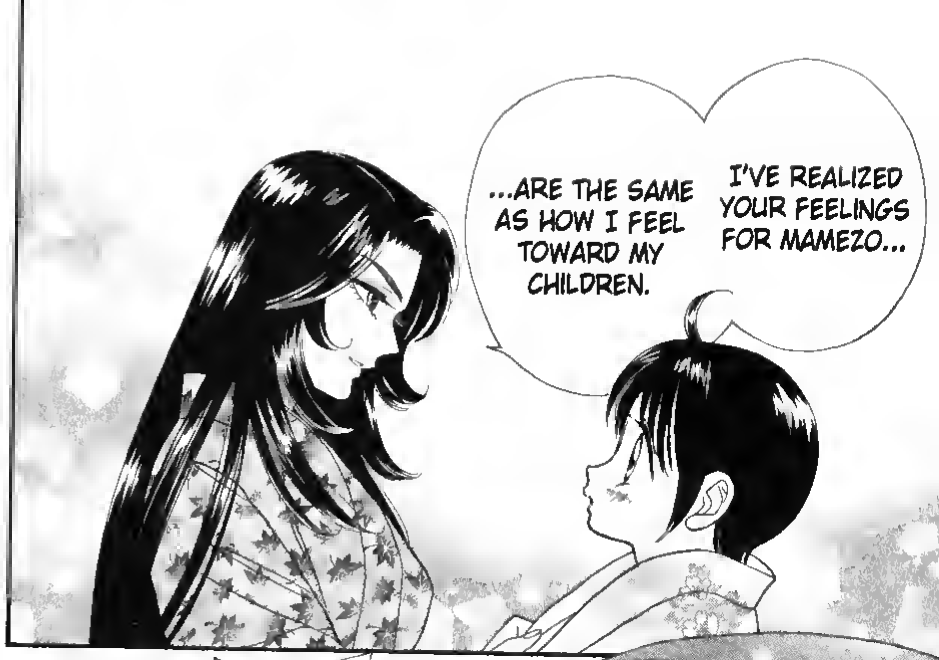
I'M ENVIOUS THAT CHILDREN CAN MAKE UP SO EASILY...
SHUP
SHUP

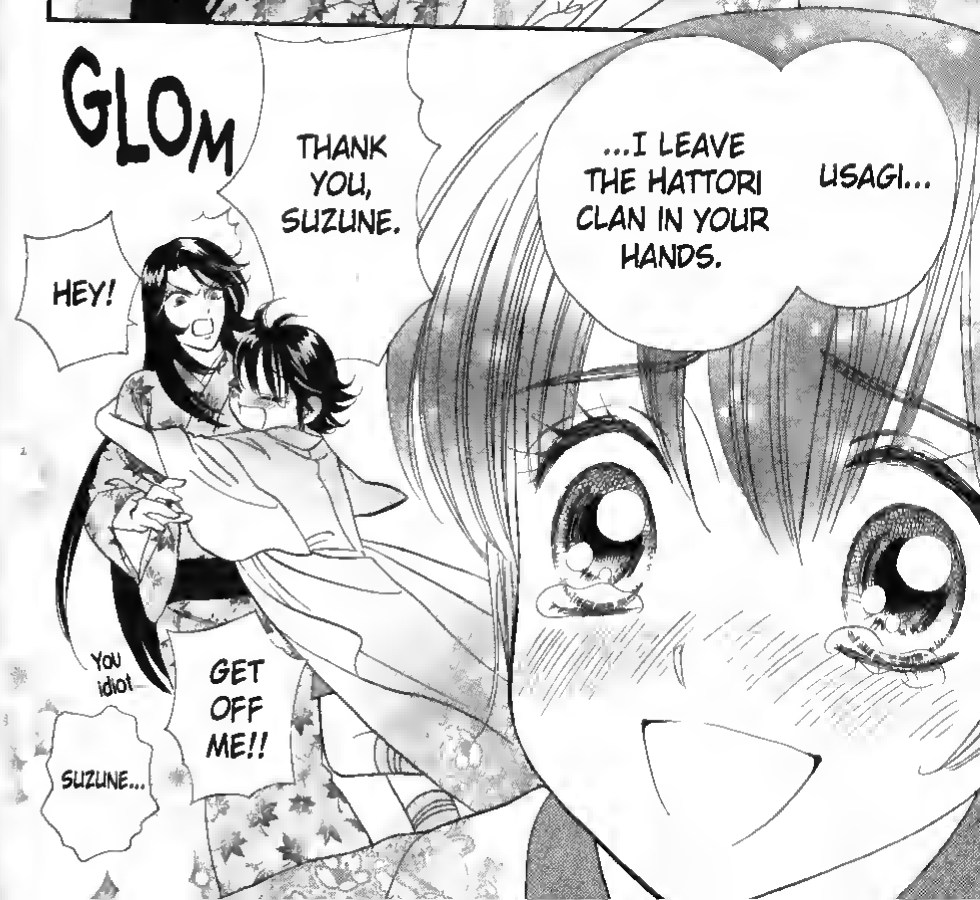
ZWIK
TH-
THUMP
TH-
THUMP
TMP
HUH?
SUZUNE?
TMP
COME WITH ME.
PASSED... I DID?!
WOW...
THIS IS A KIMONO THAT I WORE WHEN I WAS YOUNG.
SHFF
TUP
Y-YOU'RE GIVING THIS KIMONO TO ME?
IT LOOKS GOOD.
I'VE FIXED IT SO IT WILL FIT YOU...

YOU'VE PASSED THE HOUSEHOLD TRAINING, USAGI.
HUH?
IT'S VERY GOOD.
YOU'VE BEEN DOING THE CLEANING AND WASHING AS WELL.

...I PASSED THE HOUSEHOLD TRAINING!!
HANZO...
HUH?!
B-BMP
M-MY SISTER?!
YOUR SISTER GAVE IT TO ME. ♡
HERE♡
B-BMP
B-BMP
TH-THAT'S GOOD TO HEAR...
BUT THAT KIMONO...


MARRY USAGI NOW.
!!
TUNK
WHY DON'T YOU MAKE SOME PROGRESS TOO?
PRO-GRESS?
I DIDN'T KNOW THAT YOU TWO MADE UP.
THE SITUATION PROGRESSES ON A DAILY BASIS, HANZO.
FOOP?


...ARE THE SAME AS HOW I FEEL TOWARD MY CHILDREN.
I'VE REALIZED YOUR FEELINGS FOR MAMEZO...


GLOM
THANK YOU, SUZUNE.
...I LEAVE THE HATTORI CLAN IN YOUR HANDS.
USAGI...
HEY!
You idiot
SUZUNE...
GET OFF ME!!

USAGI!!
SHFF
I HAVE NO INTENTIONS OF CHANGING MY MIND!
"NO!"
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
I KNEW IT.
DASH
HANZO DOESN'T LIKE ME...
WAIT!!
AH!
GRAB
YOU'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO GET MARRIED IF YOU WAIT FOR THAT.
I WILL, BUT AFTER USAGI IS QUALIFIED AS A NINJA...
M-MARRY ?!
TH-THUMP
TH-THUMP
TH-THUMP
NO!
IF YOU'RE GOING TO MARRY HER ANYWAY, THEN THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH MARRYING HER RIGHT NOW...
JOLT

YOU CAN QUALIFY AS A NINJA, USAGI!!
I'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO DO IT...
DON'T ASSUME TO KNOW YOUR OWN LIMITS!!
YOU HAVE GROWN A LOT SINCE THE FIRST TIME I MET YOU, USAGI!!
NO!
GROWN SIDEWAYS, RIGHT?

WHY DID YOU RUN AWAY?
HUFF
HUFF
TUMP
ACK!
AREN'T YOU THE ONE WHO'S RUNNING AWAY, HANZO?!
YOU KEEP MAKING THOSE EXCUSES ABOUT ME QUALIFYING AS A NINJA BECAUSE YOU DON'T WANT TO MARRY ME!
ME...?

YOU WILL QUALIFY AS A NINJA...
...AND BECOME MY WIFE.

YOUR HEART HAS GROWN.
MY HEART?
I WANT TO BE BESIDE YOU TO SEE YOU GROW, USAGI.

TAIL OF THE MOON EXTRA: TODAY'S MISSION

"I WANT TO SEE HANZO WORKING AT A PRESCHOOL."

-MACHAKO-SAN, FUKUSHIMA PREFECTURE

I'M SO ENVIOUS OF MAMEZO! I WANT TO PLAY WITH HANZO TOO!
HANZO, PLAY WITH ME TOO...
OF COURSE.
PLAY WITH ME AGAIN TODAY!
MAMEZO, IGNORE THE GIRL BEHIND ME.
MISSION ACCOMPLISHED!

INFORMATION CORNER

We're waiting for your requests!

The "Tail of the Moon Extra" that started appearing in this volume is a hands-on project for the *Tail of the Moon* fans who read *Margaret* magazine. This corner is always open to your wishes of "I want to see a scene like this with these characters," and "I want to see these characters say these lines!" It is a versatile project that will answer any request by the readers. In addition there's "Hattori Hanzo's Counseling Room," "Tips on a Better Romance by Three Handsome Men," "Mamezo's Trivia," and much, much more, so please feel free to make requests!!

AW...
DOOM
NUDGE NUDGE
By surprise!
ONCE WITH GOEMON...
Not counting the times we kissed when we were children.
By mistake!
Under the influence!
...AND TWICE WITH YUKI...
...THEY WERE BOTH ACCIDENTS.
ARGH
SMOOCH SMOOCH
I WANT TO KISS HANZO SO BADLY...!!
HEY!
KISS ME, HANZO! ♡
THAT IDIOT...
Why does she have to say it in such a loud voice?

MAYBE SOMETHING WILL HAPPEN TONIGHT? ♡
SCRUB SCRUB
SCRUB HARDER?
HARDER? ♡
I WANT TO BE CLEAN AND SHINY BEFORE I SEE HANZO, AND THEN...
KISS... ♡
I WISH THAT WOULD HAPPEN. ♡
SINCE MY SISTER ACCEPTS YOU NOW, THERE'S NO NEED FOR US TO SLEEP TOGETHER ANYMORE.
YOU CAN SLEEP IN YOUR ROOM.
SHOCKZWIK!
WE'LL BE STARTING ON YOUR NINJUTSU PRACTICE TOMORROW!!
COME TO THINK OF IT...
...THE PEOPLE I'VE KISSED SO FAR ARE...
I WAS SO CLOSE TO KISSING HIM...
SIGH
I'M SLEEPING WITH USA. ♪
YAY!
SOB...

PLEASE! ♡
YOU'VE GAINED WEIGHT.
HAN...
...ZO?
STOP EATING THE FOOD YOU'VE CLAIMED TO HAVE MADE A MISTAKE ON!
TROMP
SOB SOB
WAAH!
SORRY.
I'M STILL SO FAR AWAY FROM A KISS...!!
YES...
IF YOU'VE MADE TOO MUCH, THEN GIVE IT TO KAMI NO HANZOU AND THE PRINCESS.
HATTORI CLAN GUEST HOUSE
HANZOU? PRINCESS?
ZWIK
DO YOU WANT TO HAVE BREAKFAST TOGETHER?
OOH...

SLURP
OH! THERE'S STILL SOME LEFT.
TWEET TWEET
GULP GULP
USAGI.
ACK
I'M REALLY GOING TO MAKE THE GREATEST MISO SOUP THIS TIME.
PHEW.
HANZO...
...THIS MISO SOUP WASN'T THAT GOOD, SO...
...
BA-BUMP

USAGI, YOU'RE GOING TO TREAT US TO BREAK-FAST?
UH, YEAH.
WAIT A MINUTE. I'LL JUST GET CHANGED...
PRINCESS, YOUR STOMACH ISN'T THAT BIG FOR A PREGNANT PERSON.
IT'S ACTUALLY BIGGER THAN BEFORE.
HUH
AND YOU'RE STILL THINNER THAN I AM?!
THE PRINCESS HAS SUCH A BEAUTIFUL BODY.
H-HOW DO YOU STAY SO SKINNY?
WAARGH
HOW?
I CLIMB THREE MOUNTAINS EVERY DAY...
MOUNTAINS?
THREE OF THEM...
NO WAY!
USAGI...
IF YOU WANT TO LOSE WEIGHT, I KNOW THE BEST WAY.

BLUSH
!!
MMM.
USAGI IS HERE...
I'M GOING BACK TO HAMAMATSU TODAY AND WON'T BE COMING BACK FOR A WHILE...
I WANT TO BE WITH YOU AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE, SARA.
WE'VE DONE IT ENOUGH TIMES, DON'T YOU THINK?!
I CAN'T BELIEVE I'M WIT-NESSING THIS...!!
THUD
WE'LL BE DONE IN A MINUTE, SO PLEASE WAIT...
EH...
UM...

YOU'RE LATE!!
HUFF
HUFF
HMPH
HUFF
HUFF
SHWA
SHWA
HMPH
S-SO MANY HANZOS...
HEEEE
HEEEE
TH-THUMP
TH-THUMP
HURRY UP AND SIT DOWN.
I'LL REHEAT IT...
THE BREAKFAST HAS GOTTEN COLD!!
YOU'RE LATE.
NOW, NOW.
HANZO!!
EAT AS MUCH AS YOU LIKE...
HMPH.
OH!
USAGI, YOU LOOK PALE.
IT'S N-NOTHING...
HUFF
HUFF
YEAH, IT FORCES YOU TO PULL YOURSELF TOGETHER, DOESN'T IT? ♪
HUFF
HUFF

EVERYTHING YOU SEE WILL LOOK LIKE HANZO...
LIKE HANZO...
HANZO...
EVERYTHING LOOKS LIKE HANZO...
DO YOU SERIOUSLY THINK THAT YOU CAN HYPNOTIZE HER THAT EASILY?!
THERE. IT'S DONE. ♪
SNAP
OH!
TMP
HANZO IS ANGRY BECAUSE YOU'RE LATE.
TMP
HANZO IS SO SMALL!!
YEARGH
THERE ARE TWO HANZOS...!!
USA.
IT DOESN'T SOUND CONVINCING SAYING IT WHEN YOU'RE NAKED...
IF HANZO IS WATCHING YOU ALL THE TIME, THEN DON'T YOU THINK IT'LL MAKE IT EASIER FOR YOU TO WORK HARD ON YOUR DIET?
Hurry up and get dressed.

TMP
TMP
YOU'LL START ON THAT TOMORROW.
AM I GOING TO BE PRACTICING IN THE CHILDREN'S GROUP AGAIN?
PIK
PIK
TODAY, WE'LL PLANT THIS.
IT'S YOUR TREE, USAGI.
MY TREE?
THIS ONE IS MY TREE.
IS THERE A TREE FOR YOU, HANZO?
YOU WILL GROW TOGETHER WITH YOUR TREE.
IF YOU JUMP OVER THIS SEEDLING EVERY DAY, IT'LL TRAIN YOU TO JUMP HIGHER.

WHAT DIDN'T WORK OUT?
SORRY, IT DIDN'T WORK OUT...
MNF
MNF
WARGH
W-WELL...

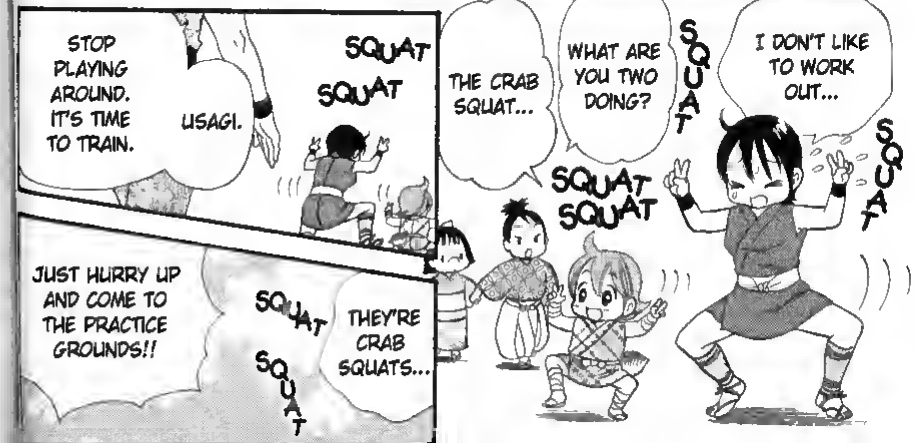
WARGH
MY BREAK-FAST!!
MNCH
USAGI, WHAT'S THE MATTER?!
MNCH
MNCH
OH-OH.

JOLT
OKAY, I'LL EAT EVERY-THING! ♡
CHOMF CHOMF

HANZO IS OVER HERE TOO!!
MN MN
VUP
HEY.

YOU TOO, HANZOU!! YOU HAVE TO BE MORE SERIOUS ABOUT THINGS. YOU'RE GOING TO BE A FATHER SOON.
OKAY, OKAY.
I'M SORRY...
...IS THE WRONG ATTITUDE TO HAVE IN THE FIRST PLACE!!
YOU SHOULD JUST MOVE YOUR BODY RATHER THAN RELY ON SOME HYPNOSIS!! THE WHOLE IDEA OF TRYING TO LOSE WEIGHT EASILY...

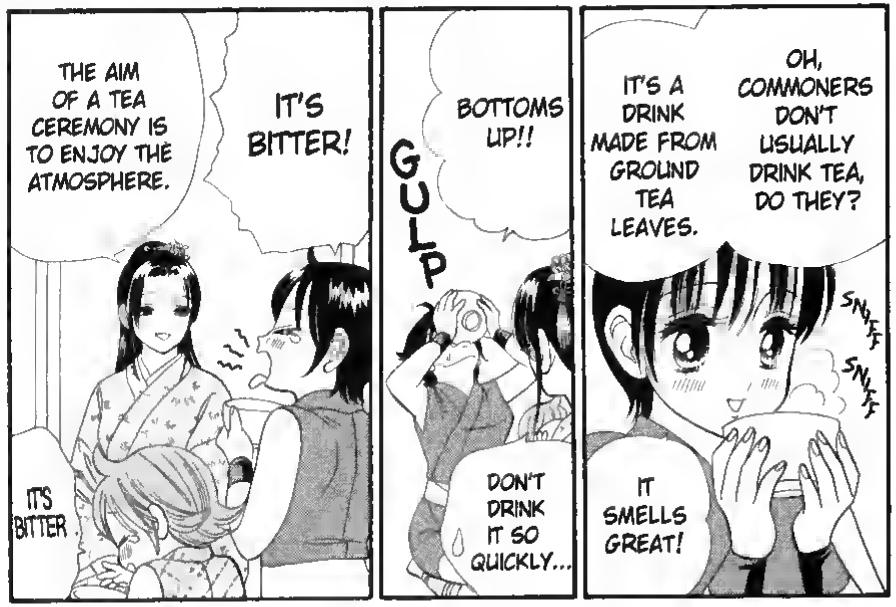
HANZO SCOLDED ME FOR SUCH A LONG TIME TODAY...
SIGH.
AFTER-EFFECT
HMPH
THREE HOURS LATER...


STOP PLAYING AROUND. IT'S TIME TO TRAIN.
USAGI.
SQUAT
SQUAT
JUST HURRY UP AND COME TO THE PRACTICE GROUNDS!!
SQUAT
SQUAT
THEY'RE CRAB SQUATS...
THE CRAB SQUAT...
WHAT ARE YOU TWO DOING?
SQUAT
SQUAT
SQUAT
I DON'T LIKE TO WORK OUT...
SQUAT

WHAT'S WRONG?
ALL YOU NEED IS PRACTICE ...
TMP
WOW, HANZO! ♪
ZFF
...EVER GOING TO BE ABLE TO JUMP OVER IT?
...
IT'S SUCH A TALL TREE. AM I...
TUP
...BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN YOU CAN'T IMPROVE.
YOU'RE A SLOW LEARNER COMPARED TO OTHERS, USAGI...

TH...
...THIS IS YOUR TREE?!
...I INHERITED MY GRAND-FATHER'S TREE, AND USED IT TO DO PRACTICE MY JUMPS.
THIS IS THE TREE...
...HANZO HAS PRACTICED WITH, EVER SINCE HE WAS SMALL...
TMP

I'VE HAD MY TEA SET BROUGHT OVER FROM AZUCHI.
OOOH...
WHAT'S TEA?
IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE I LAST BREWED TEA...


THE AIM OF A TEA CEREMONY IS TO ENJOY THE ATMOSPHERE.
IT'S BITTER!
IT'S BITTER.
BOTTOMS UP!!
GULP
DON'T DRINK IT SO QUICKLY...
IT'S A DRINK MADE FROM GROUND TEA LEAVES.
OH, COMMONERS DON'T USUALLY DRINK TEA, DO THEY?
IT SMELLS GREAT!
SNIFF SNIFF

I'M GOING TO KEEP WORKING AT IT.
JUST KEEP WORKING AT IT WITH YOUR HEAD HELD HIGH.
MY TREE IS NOW NEXT TO HANZO'S.

MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE I'VE GAINED WEIGHT?
HEEZE HEEZE
I-I SEEM TO GET TIRED MORE EASILY THAN BEFORE...

FLOP
USAGI, WHY DON'T YOU REST AWHILE?
MAMEZO, CARRY ME TO MY ROOM...
YOU'RE TOO HEAVY.

JUMP
TRIP
WOAH!

JUMP
Good luck!
I'M GOING TO DO IT!!

Me too!
HUFF HUFF
JUMP

HUFF
HUFF
JUMP

USAGI...
...WHY AREN'T YOU PRACTICING?
SHIK
SHIK
TROMP
TROMP
IF I LOOK FOR HERBS THAT WILL HELP ME LOSE WEIGHT...
...AND BREW IT INTO A TEA...
...I'M SURE I CAN LOSE WEIGHT!!
TA-DAH!
I'M GOING TO MIX SOME STOMACH MEDICINE IN WITH IT TOO. ♪
That's fine then.
IS IT SOME URGENT MEDICINE OR SOMETHING?
I HAVE TO MAKE THIS FIRST!
GRIND
GRIND
GRIND
FWIK FWIK
MAYBE IT'LL HAVE A DIFFERENT EFFECT IF I USE YOUNG LEAVES!
I KNOW!!
LA LA LA
EXPERIMENT! ♪
EXPERIMENT! ♪
SEVEN DAYS LATER...

THE ATMOSPHERE?
YOU ARRANGE THE FLOWERS OF THE SEASON.
BREW THE TEA.
AND ENTERTAIN THE GUESTS.
IT'S A MOMENT WHEN YOU ARE TRULY ABLE TO RELAX...
THAT'S OKAY.
I DON'T UNDERSTAND.
THE TEA IS BITTER LIKE MEDICINE TOO.
!!
DASH
I CAN BREW IT INTO TEA AND DRINK IT!!
I KNOW!!
HUH?
I MIGHT BE ABLE TO LOSE WEIGHT THIS TIME!!
THANK YOU, PRINCESS.

WAIT.
YOU'RE STILL IN THE MIDST OF YOUR TRAINING, AREN'T YOU?!
BUT LORD IEYASU MAY HAVE COME UP WITH A MEDICINE TO LOSE WEIGHT...
I'M GOING TO HAMAMATSU TO ASK HIM!!
A MEDICINE TO LOSE WEIGHT?!
I CAN'T TRAIN PROPERLY UNLESS I LOSE WEIGHT!!
EEK!
SO THAT'S WHAT YOU'VE BEEN TRYING TO MAKE WITHOUT DOING YOUR TRAINING!!
YOU IDIOT!
I SAID I'M GOING, SO I'M GOING!!
DASH

TROMP
TROMP
HANG IN THERE!!
SHE'S ONLY HAVING PROBLEMS WITH TESTING A MEDICINE.
WHAT SHOULD I DO?
AH!
WHAT'S THE MATTER, USAGI?!
I'M BACK!
OW!
URGH!
TMP

OR DID HE USE WESTERN MEDICINE?!
CHINESE MEDICINE?
HOW DID HE DO IT?!
TUG
HUH?
I DIDN'T ASK...
HOW DID LORD IEYASU LOSE WEIGHT?!
I WAS REALLY SURPRISED TO SEE THAT LORD IEYASU HAD LOST A LOT OF WEIGHT...
!!
HANZOU.
ARE YOU SURE SHE'S NOT ILL?
HOW WAS HAMAMATSU?
WHAT SHOULD I DO?
WHAT SHOULD I DO?
BUT THERE WAS ONE THING!
NOTHING MUCH HAPPENED...

...MAKE SURE YOU DON'T GET CLOSE TO KOUGA.
HAMAMATSU SHOULD BE OKAY, BUT...

THEY MAY BE NINJA LIKE US, BUT THE KOUGA CLAN TENDS TO TREAT OUTSIDERS HARSHLY. BE CAREFUL.
WHY?
I NEVER GO NEAR IT...
KOUGA?

I'M OFF!
OKAY.
TMP
TMP
I FEEL A LITTLE BAD ABOUT LEAVING WHEN HANZO IS STILL ANGRY AT ME...
PEEK
SILENCE
...
...
TMP
TMP
TMP
SIGH.
USA, ARE YOU OKAY?

I'LL GET SOMEBODY ELSE TO DO IT FOR ME.
USA...
...WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO ABOUT TAKING CARE OF THE SEEDLING WHILE YOU'RE AWAY?

USAGI...
...ARE YOU GOING SOME-WHERE?
SUZUNE!
I'M GOING TO HAMA-MATSU!!

TMP
TMP
USAGI...
YOU HAVE TO CUT USAGI A LITTLE MORE SLACK.
SHE'S DOING HER BEST SO SHE CAN BECOME YOUR WIFE, YOU KNOW?

MY PACE MAY BE SLOW...
COME BACK WHILE YOU STILL CAN JUMP OVER THAT SEEDLING.
...BUT I'LL KEEP TRYING...
...A STEP AT A TIME.
SEE YOU LATER.
OKAY!!

I'LL WATER YOUR SEEDLING WHILE YOU'RE AWAY.
HANZO !!
I'M GLAD TO SEE YOU.
I WANTED TO...
TMP TMP

TAIL OF THE MOON EXTRA: TODAY'S MISSION

"I WANT TO SEE A HARD-BOILED HANZO!"

-HARURIN-SAN, TOKUSHIMA PREFECTURE

TMP
TMP
TMP
USA...
...I THOUGHT YOU WERE GOING FULL-SPEED AHEAD TO BECOME HANZO'S WIFE...?
WELL, THERE ARE TIMES WHEN YOU NEED TO REST IF YOU WANT TO BE able TO GO AT FULL SPEED...
HERE, DO YOU WANT A SESAME DUMPLING?
HUFF HUFF
GUR
WHAT ABOUT YOUR DIET, USA?
MNCH
MNCH
I PROMISE THAT I'LL START AGAIN TOMORROW.
LOOK, IT'S SASUKE!!
MNCH
MNCH
WHAT?!
KEE!
TMP
HEY!
THE DUMPLINGS ARE GONE!!
USA!!
KEE!
VOOM
TUMP
URGH!

TMP
TMP
TMP
MAMEZO, DID YOU SEE THAT?
HANZO KISSED ME.
IT MAY HAVE BEEN ON MY FOREHEAD, BUT IT WAS STILL A KISS FROM HANZO. ♡
HEE ♡
HEE ♡
HEE ♡
SO ONCE I LOSE WEIGHT AND BECOME A QUALIFIED NINJA...
I'M GOING FULL-SPEED AHEAD TO BECOME HANZO'S WIFE...!!
TMP
TMP
ON YOUR FOREHEAD!

DASH
HANZOU!
I AGREE.
THOSE TWO HAVEN'T CHANGED AT ALL SINCE THEY WERE CHILDREN.
WHY DON'T YOU JUST HURRY UP AND MARRY USAGI?
STOP MAKING EXCUSES ABOUT GETTING USAGI TO LOSE WEIGHT AND BECOME A QUALIFIED NINJA...
BUT THAT WOULDN'T BE GOOD FOR USAGI.
WHAT YOU CAN DO AND WHAT USAGI CAN DO ARE TWO COMPLETELY DIFFERENT THINGS. YOU REALIZE THAT, RIGHT, HANZO?!
YOU SHOULD HELP HER AT TIMES LIKE THAT.
I DON'T MIND IF USAGI IS FAT.
BUT IF THE ODA ATTACK US AGAIN, IT WOULD BE DANGEROUS IF SHE WEREN'T ABLE TO MOVE SWIFTLY.
MESSY
USAGI...
HOW COULD SHE LEAVE HER ROOM IN SUCH A MESS?
HUH?
HEY! STOP RIGHT THERE!
KEE!
YOU DIRTY MONKEY!!
SASUKE...
DASH
SUFT
KLUP
FUP
IF MY SISTER SEES THIS, NINJA STARS WILL START FLYING AGAIN!
MY HEART IS BEATING SO FAST!
WH-WHAT IS THIS?
B-BMP
B-BMP
THAT'S WHAT YOU CALL LOVE.
BD BU
MP
HM?

WOAH!
USA!
HAHAHA
WHUM

WAIT...
HUFF
SASUKE!
HUFF

MNCH
MNCH
HEY!

KEE!
GRRR
STOP EATING IT!!

TMP
!!
KRIK

A HUSBAND AND WIFE ARE SUPPOSED TO SUPPORT ONE ANOTHER.

DAZZLING...
HUH?
THE SHINY BLOND GUY!!
IT'S THE TUMBLER I MET DOWN AT OKAZAKI!
KEE
I NEED YOUR HELP AGAIN, SO YOU'LL BE NICE ENOUGH TO HELP ME, RIGHT?
MY NAME IS HIKARU.
L-LET ME DOWN...
I'M ON MY WAY TO HAMAMATSU.
A NINJA SWORD!!
ARGH
TMP
TMP
USA!
OH!
MY HELP?
TMP
USA!!

VUMPH
OH!
SO WE MEET AGAIN...
...MY DEAR ANGEL.

USAGI ALWAYS RUNS OFF SOMEWHERE IF YOU DON'T KEEP YOUR EYE ON HER.
GOEMON!
WARGH
USA...
SHE WAS KIDNAPPED BY A SHINY BLOND PERSON!!

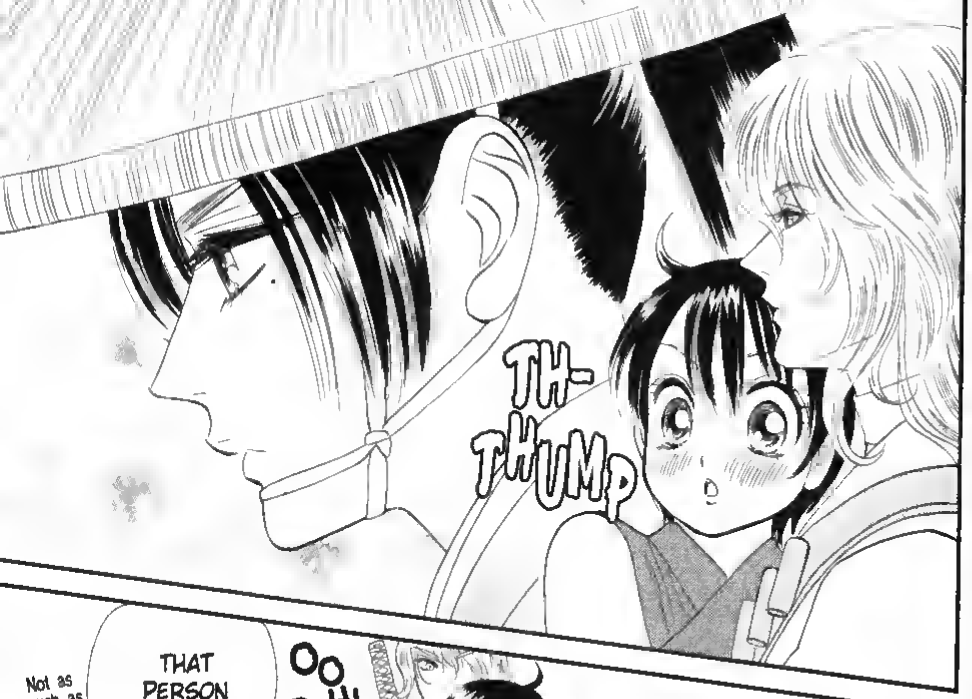
WE'LL BE IN KOUGA SOON.
WHY DOES HIKARU HAVE A NINJA SWORD?

KOUGA ?!

AAAAH!
THAT'S RIGHT.
H-HIKARU, ARE YOU A NINJA FROM THE KOUGA CLAN?

MAMEZO...
TMP
TMP
...DID YOU GET SEPARATED FROM USAGI?

TMP
TMP
USA, WHERE ARE YOU?!
USA!


TH-
THUMP

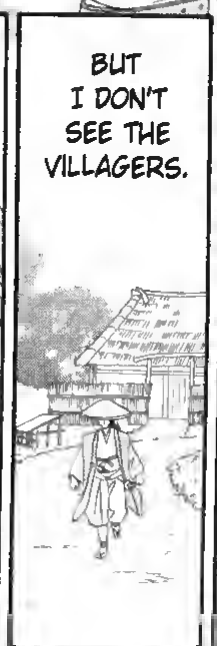
Not as much as Hanzo, though.
THAT PERSON WAS SO GOOD-LOOKING...
OOH! OOH!
TMP
TMP

ZWIK
IF YOU NEED MY HELP, I WANT YOU TO TELL ME NOW!
HIKARU...
...I'M IN A HURRY.
OH!
REALLY?
Y-YOU'RE MUCH BETTER LOOKING, HIKARU.
You're blinding me!
VEEN

I WON'T DO ANYTHING! PLEASE STOP SQUAWKING LIKE A LITTLE BIRD.
Y-YOU'RE GOING TO DO MEAN THINGS TO ME BECAUSE I'M AN OUTSIDER, AREN'T YOU?!
ARGH!
KOUGA
ARGH!

BUT IT'S STILL A KOUGA VILLAGE.
IT'S JUST LIKE HANZO'S SISTER TOLD ME.
SEE, THIS PLACE IS NO DIFFERENT FROM YOUR OWN VILLAGE. IT'S A SANCTUARY FOR NINJA.

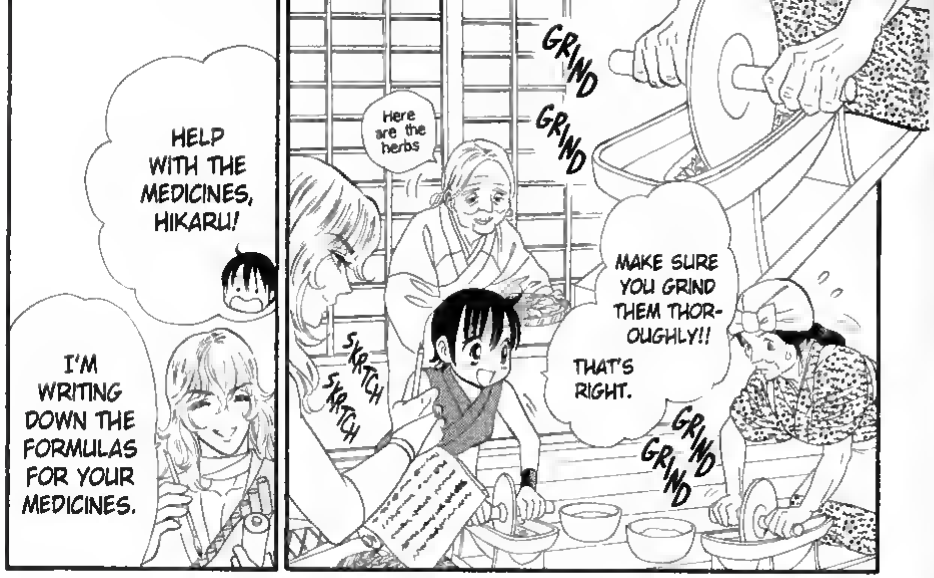
NOD


BUT I DON'T SEE THE VILLAGERS.

SOB
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE SEEN A KOUGA VILLAGE...
IT LOOKS PRETTY MUCH THE SAME AS ANY VILLAGE IN IGA.

ARE YOU AN HERBALIST?
I'LL TAKE A LOOK AT EVERYBODY.
PLEASE. YOU HAVE TO TAKE A LOOK AT MY CHILD...
WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO SEPARATE PEOPLE AND PUT THEM IN DIFFERENT ROOMS, DEPENDING ON THEIR INJURIES!!
IT'S TOO STUFFY IN HERE WITH THIS MANY PEOPLE.
IF YOU OPEN THE WINDOW, THE COLD AIR WILL GET IN.
LET ME SEE!
VUp
...BUT IT'S NOT AS BAD AS THIS.
I'VE BEEN TOLD THAT IGA IS SHORT OF HANDS TOO...
OH!
OKAY! NEXT...

THEY GOT INJURED DURING THEIR ASSIGNMENTS.
WHAT'S WRONG WITH THEM?
UHHH
UHHH
THIS VILLAGE HAS HERBALISTS TOO, DOESN'T IT?!
WHERE'S THE HERBALIST?
THE KOUGA CLAN IS SHORT ON MANPOWER RIGHT NOW, AND WE KEEP GETTING ASSIGNMENTS WITHOUT TIME TO REST IN BETWEEN...
HYOO
KOFF
SHUP
DASH
THAT'S WHY I NEED YOUR HELP.
THERE WERE TWO OF THEM...
BOTH DIED LAST MONTH.


HELP WITH THE MEDICINES, HIKARU!
I'M WRITING DOWN THE FORMULAS FOR YOUR MEDICINES.
Here are the herbs
SKRTCH SKRTCH
GRIND GRIND
MAKE SURE YOU GRIND THEM THOROUGHLY!!
THAT'S RIGHT.
GRIND GRIND

YAWN
RUB RUB

I'm not that good at wrapping bandages.
Ouch!

WHUD
SNORE SNORE
MY ANGEL!!

THEY LOOK GREAT.
FLUMP

GIVE THESE SESAME DUMPLINGS TO THAT LITTLE BOY, OKAY?
HIKARU...
TAP TAP

I'M GOING TO TAKE A LOOK AT YOU NOW...
HANG IN THERE!!
HUFF HUFF
...GOING TO DIE?
AM I...

...HE'S ALL ON HIS OWN RIGHT NOW!!
MAMEZO...
HUFF

HUFF HUFF
THIS BOY IS AS YOUNG AS MAMEZO, AND HE WAS INJURED ON AN ASSIGNMENT.

REALLY...?
HUFF HUFF
CHILDREN HEAL MUCH FASTER, YOU KNOW.
YOU'RE NOT GOING TO DIE!

DASH
HIKARU, PLEASE GET THE INGREDIENTS FOR SESAME DUMPLINGS READY!!
AND HAVE THE PEOPLE WHO CAN STILL MOVE HELP ME MAKE THE MEDICINES!
RIGHT.
DASH

I KNOW!
EATING SOMETHING SWEET WILL HELP THE PAIN GO AWAY.
I'LL MAKE YOU SOME SESAME DUMPLINGS LATER!
DUMPLINGS?
I LIKE DUMPLINGS.

YIP YIP
...BUT TO FORCE OUR-SELVES THROUGH.
NOW WE'VE GOT NO CHOICE...
DAMN IT!
YIP YIP
DASH
THOK
WOAH!
!!
THUD
THUD

SHH.
OINK
GOEMON...
...IS USA REALLY HERE?
DIDN'T I TELL YOU TO LEAVE THE ANIMALS BEHIND?!
HEY!
OINK
LICK LICK
BUT WE'RE IN KOUGA. IT'LL BE DANGEROUS TO LEAVE THEM BEHIND.
DAMN
VISH
CRAP!
YIP YIP
USAMARU...
TMP
OH!
TMP TMP TMP
SNOOF SNOOF
TH-THUMP
TH-THUMP

We're waiting for your letters!

- There's still a lot to talk about for my trip to the Kouga-ryu Ninjutsu House, so I'll continue writing about it in the next volume. Please look forward to it!!
- For those who would like to see the characters in a particular scene, address your requests to "Tail of the Moon Extra"
- And address fan letters to "Ueda Rinko"!

.....Address.....

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Viz Media
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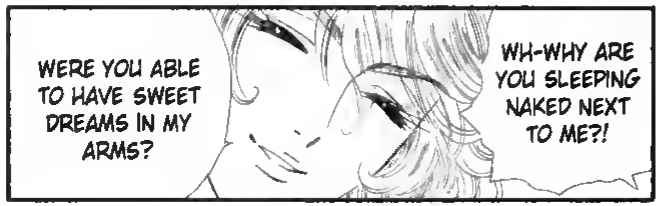
San Francisco, CA 94107

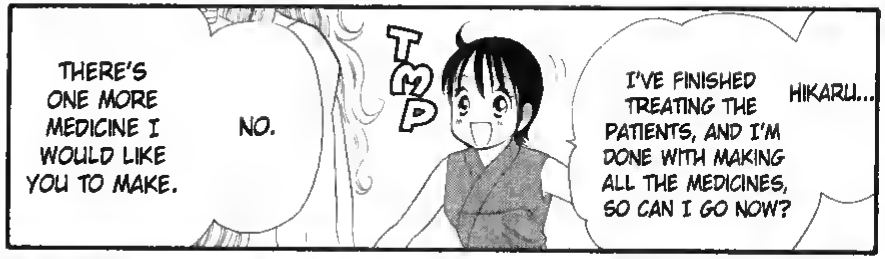


INSTANTLY?!
A POISON...
WHAT?
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO USE IT FOR?
FOR ASSIGNMENTS, OF COURSE.
I WANT YOU TO MAKE A POISON THAT WILL KILL INSTANTLY.
IF WE CAN KILL THE TARGET INSTANTLY, WE'LL BE ABLE TO DO OUR ASSIGNMENTS WITHOUT GETTING INJURED.

YOU'LL GET BETTER SOON. YOU JUST NEED TO REST FOR A WHILE.
I'M GLAD.

THANKS TO YOUR TREATMENT, EVERYBODY IS FEELING MUCH BETTER NOW.
I...
...LIKED THE SESAME DUMPLINGS.

SIGH


THERE'S ONE MORE MEDICINE I WOULD LIKE YOU TO MAKE.
NO.
TMD
I'VE FINISHED TREATING THE PATIENTS, AND I'M DONE WITH MAKING ALL THE MEDICINES, SO CAN I GO NOW?
HIKARU...

WHAT MEDICINE?
YOU SHOULD HAVE TOLD ME YESTERDAY.

ZWIK
TMP MY PRECIOUS ...?
TMP
HEY!
WHERE ARE YOU TAKING ME?!
USAGI!!
USA!
TO BE CONTINUED...

I'M NOT GOING TO MAKE SUCH A THING!!
NO WAY!
YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO...
POISONS ARE CONNECTED TO MEDICINES, RIGHT?
GRAB
I'M GOING HOME!!
...I'M AFRAID YOU'RE GOING TO LOSE YOUR PRECIOUS ANGELS.
IF YOU DON'T MAKE IT...
GRIP
YOU'RE HURTING ME.
LET ME GO!

It was tough writing stories about Usagi being tormented and Mamezo being bullied. But now that I read over it again, it is actually very interesting. I've always liked the mother-wife battle in soap operas ever since I was a child, but I never thought I'd be creating a stereotypical story like this myself. The story will probably keep having twists and turns, so please look forward to them.

–Rinko Ueda

Rinko Ueda is from Nara prefecture. She enjoys listening to the radio, drama CDs, and Rakugo comedy performances. Her works include *Ryo*, a series based on the legend of Gojo Bridge, *Home*, a story about love crossing national boundaries, and *Toil of the Moon (Tsuki no Shippo)*, a romantic ninja comedy.

The ways of the ninja are mysterious indeed, so here is a glossary of terms to help you navigate the intricacies of their world.

Page 85: **Goemon-Buro**
Goemon-buro literally translated means "Goemon-bath" or "Goemon-style bath." It is a unique Japanese bath that comes from the legend about a great thief, Ishikawa Goemon, who was boiled to death in a huge iron pot when he was caught. This bathtub is made of iron and is put in a fireplace to heat the water. Since the bottom is burning hot, the person taking the bath must put a wooden plank in the pot and step onto it when bathing.

Page 91: **Hatomugi Tea**
Hatomugi is a type of grain that Japanese people often eat and use to make tea.

Page 139: **Sakura-Nabe and Botan-Nabe**
These are traditional Japanese hotpot dishes. *Sakuro* means "cherry blossom," but the word is also used to mean "horsemeat." The same is true of *botan*, or "peony," which also can mean "boar meat."

Page 2: **Shimo no Hanzo**
Shimo no means "the Lower," and in this case refers to Hanzo's geographic location rather than social status.

Page 2: **Iga**
Iga is a region on the island of Kyushu, and also the name of the famous ninja clan that originated there. Another area famous for its ninja is Kouga, in the Shiga prefecture on Honshu. Many books claim that these two ninja clans were mortal enemies, but in reality inter-ninja relations were not as bad as stories paint them.

Page 18: **Ninjutsu**
Ninjutsu means the skill or ability of a ninja.

Page 65: **Zatoichi**
Zatoichi is a famous TV and movie character. He's a blind swordsman who uses his cane as a sword when fighting.

Page 76: **Daruma-san ga Koronda**
"The Daruma Doll Tripped Over" is a traditional Japanese game that is somewhat similar to "Red Light, Green Light." The person who is "it" will sing a song while looking away, and during the song the other players have to move closer to eventually touch him. *Daruma-san* is a traditional Japanese doll. Its name and shape are based on Bodhidharma, the founder of Zen.